



South Somerset News

The latest news, information and events in South Somerset

www.southsomerset.gov.uk

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South Somerset District Council continues to deliver for its communities

What does South Somerset District Council do? It's a question we're often asked and one which we're always happy to answer.

From housing benefits to play parks and community grants to planning, many people work hard every day to make South Somerset an incredible place to live, play and do business. We encourage you to visit our website and explore the wide range of services we provide and projects we deliver.

In the past 18 months, we have delivered a wide range of things for our communities that we are proud of, from balancing our budget in 2018 and ensuring that there are no reductions to services for the 2018/19 financial year, to winning Gold in the South West in Bloom competition – it all helps to create better South Somerset for all.

We delivered an online social media campaign including graphics and videos in October to emphasise 15 things we're very proud of delivering in the past 18 months. If you haven't seen any of the content, visit our Facebook page and take a look at some of the fantastic things we've delivered for our communities. We also created a video that details all 15 things we are proud of delivering.

That's just the tip of the iceberg in terms of things we are proud of achieving and providing for communities in South Somerset. There have been plenty of other things we have done, including internally transforming the way we work to enable us to deliver services more effectively and efficiently in to the future.

For more information on the 15 things we are proud of delivering for our communities and to find out about projects that are upcoming or already underway, visit our website at www.southsomerset.gov.uk.



Above: The Chard Regeneration programme was officially launched earlier in 2018 with a public consultation.



Visit the Ninesprings Café & enjoy a drink after a venture into Yeovil Country Park.

Visit www.southsomerset.gov.uk/ninespringscafe



Check your Christmas collections

All waste collections and recycling sites will change over the festive fortnight.

Services on 24 December are unchanged but with no collections on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, that week's pick-ups will be two days later, including those for Thursday and Friday taking place on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 December.

With services unchanged on 31 December and no collections on New Year's Day, that week's pick-up will be a day later, including Friday's on Saturday 5 January.

Garden waste collections are suspended between 24 December and 4 January. All collections resume from Monday 7 January.

Recycling sites will follow their usual schedules, although all sites will close at 4pm on Monday 24 and 31 December. All sites close 25-26 December and 1 January.

For more on collections, sites and what to do if severe winter weather causes missed collections, please visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk.



Recycle your real Christmas tree

Residents in South Somerset will be able to leave their natural Christmas trees for shredding and recycling at various sites across the district.

A full list of the sites where you can recycle your Christmas tree will be available from Wednesday 19 December on our website at www.southsomerset.gov.uk/xmastreecycling.

You will be able to deposit your tree from around the Thursday 27 December. Dates will vary depending on location, however full details will be available on the Christmas tree recycling webpage.

Other ways to recycle your Christmas tree are also on the webpage.

Love your leftovers

Here are our top tips to avoid being wasteful and make your food go further this festive season.

- Cool any leftovers at room temperature, then cover them and ensure that they go in the fridge or freezer within one-two hours.
- If you have a lot of one type of food, splitting it into smaller portions will help it to cool quickly. It also means you can freeze and defrost only what you need for future dishes.
- You can freeze cooked turkey, other cooked meat and meals made from cooked and frozen meat. But once defrosted, you should eat the food within 24 hours.
- You can use previously cooked and frozen turkey to make a new meal, such as a turkey curry.



Take a look at the Love Food Hate Waste website at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for more information on freezing leftovers, including recipe ideas.

Midnight merriment at Barrington Court

14-17, 21-23 December 2018
11.00am to 3.00pm

The house and garden will be sparkling and festive with music, dancing games and activities.

Ye Olde Christmas Market

15 December 2018
9.00am to 4.00pm

Quedam Shopping Centre
Browse locally produced Christmas goods and pick up that perfect gift.

Yeovil Railway Centre Santa Specials

16, 22 and 23 December
Yeovil Junction, Stoford

A short train ride to visit Santa's grotto will help you and the family get into the Christmas spirit. See www.visitsomerset.co.uk for info.



Boxing Day at the races

26 December 2018
First race: 12.20pm

Wincanton Racecourse
The perfect post-Christmas day out. www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/wincanton.

Spirit of the Dance

15 January 2019
Octagon Theatre, Yeovil

The international smash hit show come to Yeovil in the New Year. See www.octagon-theatre.co.uk.

ABBA Mania 2019

1 February 2019
Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
ABBA Mania is accepted as the world's number one touring ABBA tribute. www.octagon-theatre.co.uk.

The Greatest Hits of Motown

8 February 2019
Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
How Sweet It Is has been drawing audiences for over 18 years! www.octagon-theatre.co.uk.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes

12 February 2019
Westlands Entertainment Venue
Hear about the endeavours of *the world's greatest living explorer*. www.westlandseyovil.co.uk.

Bird Trail at Yeovil Country Park

16 to 24 February 2019
Yeovil Country Park
More information on this event available in January at www.southsomersetcountryside.com.

Spring Escapades

1 March to 31 May 2019
Montacute House, Montacute
Ring in the spring with a leisurely walk up St Michael's Hill in this National Trust site.

Endellion Quartet

10 March 2019
Dillington House, Ilminster
Welcome in the spring with an afternoon of music. www.dillington.com.

Spring Trail at Yeovil Country Park

9 April 2019
Yeovil Country Park
More information on this event available in January at www.southsomersetcountryside.com.

Chard Crafty Day

12 April 2019
Chard Reservoir
Join in bushcraft and craft activities. More info available in January at www.southsomersetcountryside.com.

Egg Olympics

16 April 2019
Ham Hill Country Park
More information on this event available in January at www.southsomersetcountryside.com.

Yeovil Beer Festival

26 & 27 April 2019
Westlands Entertainment Venue
Visit www.westlandseyovil.co.uk for more information on the event and to book tickets.

Emily Wood & Paul Hendy for Evolution Pantomimes in association with The Octagon Theatre

TAKE A MAGIC CARPET RIDE WITH ALADDIN THIS CHRISTMAS!

Aladdin

7 DEC 2018 - 6 JAN 2019

OCTAGON THEATRE YEOVIL

Box Office: 01935 422884
octagon-theatre.co.uk

Hendford | Yeovil | Somerset | BA20 1UX

Inspiring new spaces to expand your business

Yeovil Innovation Centre (YIC) officially opened their new wing on 6 November. Offering an additional 9500 ft² of business space, this is great news for businesses in South Somerset



Managed by South Somerset District Council with support from the Heart of the South West LEP, Homes England and Somerset County Council, YIC provides a location in a supported environment for businesses to be nurtured, helping them to grow.

The diverse community of tenants enjoy high quality office accommodation, super-fast 'leased-line' internet and stunning hospitality and meeting areas. Spaces are affordably priced yet without the commitment of a long lease.

YIC makes it as easy as possible to help your business take off. There are no hidden costs. What you see is what you get.

@ info@yeovilinnovationcentre.co.uk

yeovilinnovationcentre.co.uk

01935 385900



YIC
Yeovil Innovation Centre

2018 Literary Festival strikes the right tone for audiences

The 2018 Literary Festival was the most successful ever and welcomed a diverse and exciting range of writers including comedienne Jo Brand and Ruby Wax, historians Lucy Worsley, Helen Castor and Sam Willis to children's writers Tom Fletcher, Floella Benjamin and CBeebies' Ben Faulks.

With 57 events taking place at The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil Library, The Manor Hotel and Brimsmore Garden Centre, it was the busiest festival to date.

Festival Director, Adam Burgan, said "We have been delighted by the response from audiences and our speakers. We received fantastic support from the town and our sponsors and the excitement about the festival was palpable with people already asking about the 2019 festival. The Literary Festival has definitely established itself as one of the highlights of the year for Yeovil and goes from strength to strength, attracting visitors from an ever greater reach."

Yeovil Literary Festival is a partnership between The Octagon Theatre, Waterstones, Yeovil Community Arts Association and Yeovil Library. The 2019 festival will take place Thursday 31 October to 4 November.

Sit down, relax and enjoy the screening

We've released our fantastic new season of screenings to keep you entertained through winter and with the great news that we have introduced a lower ticket price for our tiered seating, sharing a cinematic experience at Westlands Entertainment Venue has never been better.

Get into the Christmas spirit by coming and watching an encore screening of A Christmas Carol featuring Simon Callow (Christmas Carol: The Movie). Simon and director Tom Cairns have created a one-man theatrical extravaganza of festive storytelling. A Christmas must see!



Kick off the New Year with the feature film screening of Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes Of Grindelwald on Thursday 3 January until Saturday 5 January.

With plenty more screenings to choose from, take up one of our comfy sofas or tiered seats, enjoy the free parking and free wifi – as well as a cinema experience without the rustle or smell of popcorn – and then sit back, relax and enjoy.

Book your seat on a magical carpet ride this panto season

It's time for our biggest production of the year, as we welcome thousands of families and friends who have snapped up their tickets for the magic carpet ride and adventure of a lifetime, Aladdin!

Our festive panto is Somerset's biggest pantomime with 53 performances taking place between Friday 7 December and Sunday 6 January.

We are pleased to be once again working with Evolution Pantomimes in bringing a traditional family pantomime to Yeovil. This year their talented team have once again worked extremely hard to put on a truly magnificent show we can be proud of.

Here at the Octagon Theatre, we are delighted to welcome back the brilliantly funny Jack Glanville, Lizzie Frances, and local lads and childhood friends, Thom Ford and Jonny Purchase.

We promise to introduce something spectacular for Aladdin; something our audience has never seen at The Octagon Theatre before... Book your tickets now by visiting www.octagon-theatre.co.uk and look out for details of our 2019 performance!

Front of house redesign at Petters House in Yeovil

Our front of house provision at Petters House in Yeovil are changing to provide a fresh, modern and contemporary environment which will be technology enabled to promote self-service for customers. The area will focus on the customer experience, creating flexible spaces and provide a range of self-serve stations which will be clear, intuitive and simple to use.

Customer focused officers will greet customers and promote self-service by supporting our customers and help them to develop skills to do more for themselves. Customers can make a choice between self-service and arranging face to face meetings through an appointment system.

These appointments will take place in the flexible meeting areas where the customer focused team will be empowered to provide multi-service advice and guidance with the aim of resolving the customer issue at the first point of contact. The front of house will be focused on our new way of working and our one team approach ensuring what we do is benefitting our customers, and that we do it as efficiently as possible.

What will the new area provide?

- A new lobby area that is welcoming;
- A front of house area broken up into two zones; A self-serve zone with a meet and greet triage area containing self-service stations; a meeting zone with a combination of small informal table and chairs, interview booths/pods and waiting areas with a reception area. Also in this area will be interview rooms where private conversations can take place.

Works are currently taking place and expected to be ready by the end of March 2019.

Do you want to make a difference in your local area?

On Thursday 2 May 2019, all 60 South Somerset District Council seats are up for election.

Would you like to make sure local parks and open spaces are protected and better used? Do you want to ensure local people have access to good local homes? Are you passionate about boosting recycling rates? Could you help the local businesses community thrive?

Councillors come from all walks of life. Councillors with different backgrounds and experiences help to produce better services responding to the differing perspectives and needs of the community.

If you would like to receive an information pack about becoming a District Councillor please e-mail democratic@southsomerset.gov.uk.



South Somerset Local Plan Review 2016 - 2036

Between October 2017 and January 2018, a public consultation was held on the Issues and Options document of the Local Plan Review. During that consultation period, over 800 representations resulting in 1,424 individual comments were received.

These comments are helping inform Officers who are working hard to develop a Preferred Options document. A revised National Planning Policy Framework was published by Central Government in July 2018, which needs to be taken into account when writing the Preferred Options document.

What happens next?

It's expected that in February 2019, the Preferred Options document will be presented to District Executive seeking their agreement to go out to consultation. Post-election in May/June 2019, a public consultation on the Preferred Options will take place.

For District Council services

Visit us online: www.southsomerset.gov.uk
email us: ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk

@Southsomersetdc  South Somerset District Council

 /southsomersetdistrictcouncil

 Call us: 01935 462462

 Write to us: Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT

Your South Somerset News

If you require a copy of South Somerset News in audio format, please telephone or email us:

Tel: 01935 462130
email: communications@southsomerset.gov.uk

You can also use these contact details to ask any questions or give comments or feedback about this edition of South Somerset News.

Sign up to have South Somerset News sent to you electronically and get the latest news:
www.southsomerset.gov.uk/latest-news.

Reminder - Don't forget to register to vote for the 2019 local elections

On Thursday 2 May 2019, voters in South Somerset will go to the polls for the South Somerset District Council elections. On the same day elections will be held for the 831 councillors that sit on our Parish and Town Councils.

These elections are an opportunity to have a say on who represents local people on issues that directly affect day-to-day life here in South Somerset. Make sure you can take part in the elections.

Anyone not registered to vote at their current address can register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote and remember that if you are going to be away on polling day, you can apply to have a postal vote or proxy vote. Get an application form for a postal or proxy vote at www.yourvotematters.co.uk.

Digital access support for customers

A range of Customer Access Points will be set up across South Somerset, enabling customers to access our services digitally in places where assisted access can be given if needed. Customers will also be able to book appointments or make a call/skype call to a customer focused officer.

Customer Access Points are expected to include touch screen computers, access to the internet, a touch down space, the ability to upload photographs or images of evidence/documents, and the ability to Skype customer focused officers.

Support groups in South Somerset

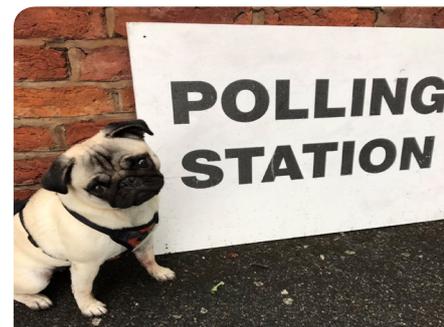
People in South Somerset can now attend support groups set up by other GP practices. There are currently six groups running in Yeovil, Martock and Somerton, each led or supported by Health Coaches. The conditions and topics they cover include diabetes, weight loss, mental health and Parkinson's.

Support groups are a great way to share experiences and learn from others about conditions or issues you have in common. This can help you better manage a condition. Most also have guest speakers from related health professionals or charities.

The South Somerset GP Federation recently took the decision to open up the support groups, so that any patient registered at a South Somerset Federation Practice can attend any of the support groups, wherever these are held. This benefits the patient and the wider health system.

There are many other support groups that are independently run, these can be found on the South Somerset Directory at wellbeingsouthsomerset.org

If you need help in finding a suitable support group, please contact Matt Day, Health & Wellbeing Coordinator at Spark on 07714 648913 or email matt.day@sparksomerset.org.uk.



To vote on Thursday 2 May 2019 you need to have registered.

Chard Regeneration

As the Chard Regeneration programme has commenced, the need to provide leisure facilities have been identified not only by the Council, but through public consultation which was held throughout June until September. The provision of these facilities will underpin further projects on the Boden Mill site and throughout the town centre.

Further community engagement has taken place over the past few months, including officers from the Council attending Holyrood Academy to hear the views of students. This will be an ongoing engagement where young people will be actively involved in sharing ideas for the project.



What's been happening recently?

- Work with potential partners is underway to understand the viability of partnership options in a new co-located facility
- A Planning and Regeneration Specialist and Heritage Consultant has been appointed to support potential major planning applications
- Preliminary and then follow-up ecology surveys have taken place, due to the discovery of a protected species (Bats) on the Boden Mill site
- Reptile, bird nesting and mammal surveys were undertaken in the garden area at the back of Boden Street Car Park
- Tree Surveys were undertaken to understand which trees needed to be integrated into any Public Scheme
- Clearance works were undertaken to avoid breeding and nesting season to ensure there was no harm to wildlife
- Initial highways traffic impact assessment
- A needs assessment evaluation, which will help us decide on the facilities mix that we need for the leisure centre and the facilities we need across the wider district.
- The project team are looking at ways in which to cut down the timeline for phase 1 which will enable the delivery of the new leisure centre by the end of 2020.

Yeovil Refresh

Progress has been made on all of the priority projects set by the Yeovil Refresh board after the public consultation earlier this year. Here is an update on the progress that has been made recently:

- The Car Park Review is nearing completion, with the report due in January;
- Work has begun on the Access Strategy. The Refresh Board have also joint funded a Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan as part of this work;
- The initial consultation on proposals to pedestrianise parts of Middle Street has finished. Revised plans will be submitted to Somerset County Council before Christmas;
- The Refresh Board has begun the process of commissioning designs for all of the Public Spaces in the town centre. The contract will include the Public Realm Design Guide, which will plan out all the improvements to the central shopping streets and public areas and also detailed designs for the open spaces such as the bandstand area.



The project group are working with a range of existing and potential investors in Yeovil. With new businesses opening in the town, there is a clear indication of renewed market confidence in Yeovil as a great place to do business.