



Mendip Monthly – July 2021

For our parishes, towns and city council

Mendip news

Gastro Glasto! Food festival proves popular in Mendip town

Glastonbury foodies were out in force for the Little Eat:Festival. More than 20 traders displayed fresh, local produce and there was music and street entertainment, to the delight of visitors at the event. They included Mendip District Council's Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects, Cllr Liz Leyshon, pictured with founders of the Eat:Festivals Bev and Sarah Milner Simonds.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10259/Gastro-Glasto-Food-festival-proves-popular-in-Mendip-town>

Don't lose your voice - residents in Mendip urged to check their voter registration details

Mendip residents are being warned not to lose their voice on decisions that affect them by making sure their electoral registration details are up to date. With important elections due to take place in the area in May 2022, this is a crucial opportunity for residents to make sure they can take part. The annual canvass ensures that Mendip District Council can keep the electoral register up to date, identifying any residents who are not registered to vote so that they can be encouraged to do so.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10260/Don-t-lose-your-voice-residents-in-Mendip-urged-to-check-their-voter-registration-details>

Forecast forces postponement of food festival in Wells this weekend

The Little eat:Festival, due to be held at Cathedral Green, Wells, on Sunday 25th July, cannot go ahead due extreme Met Office weather warnings, forecast this

weekend. Organisers Bev and Sarah Milner Simonds said the postponement was a difficult but necessary move, but were happy to confirm the Wells event would go ahead on Sunday 5th September instead.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10256/Forecast-forces-postponement-of-food-festival-in-Wells-this-weekend>

Safety first, as Council announces gradual re-opening of offices in August

Mendip District Council's offices in Shepton Mallet will re-open in early August for face-to-face visitors. But with COVID variants circulating in communities, customers are encouraged to contact the Council online or by telephone in the first instance, for safety reasons. Those who need to talk to staff in person, will find the Council campus open from Monday 2nd August and operating Mondays to Fridays, 10am until 2pm.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10251/Safety-first-as-Council-announces-gradual-re-opening-of-offices-in-August>

New Logistics Training Academy for Mendip 'a great example of a local council and business working together'

Mendip District Council has partnered with a key transport company to deliver a purpose-built Logistics Training Academy that will drive investment and growth across the wider local area. The Academy, to be based at Willmotts Transport, will offer training and employment, plus apprenticeships and reskilling opportunities. It's hoped courses will be held at the training facility sometime before April 2022.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10252/New-Logistics-Training-Academy-for-Mendip-a-great-example-of-a-local-council-and-business-working-together>

Deadline for Mendip's eco and community funds extended

Mendip District Council has extended the deadline for applications for both its Communities Fund and its Climate and Ecological Emergency Fund, to September 30th, 2021. The one-month extension follows feedback from community groups who requested the change. They said the government's delay in lifting national COVID restrictions from 21st June to 19th July, gave them less time to come together to discuss, work-up and submit their projects. Mendip was happy to oblige, and again called on the district's voluntary, community, not-for-profit organisations, and its City, Town and Parish Councils, to apply for the cash help.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10240/Deadline-for-Mendip-s-eco-and-community-funds-extended>

Saxonvale site clearance works set to go ahead this summer

Clearance work will begin at Frome's exemplar heritage development, Saxonvale, during the coming weeks, as the transformation of this once-derelict site progresses. Mendip District Council has signed a delivery agreement with contractors Balfour Beatty to begin a schedule of works which will commence in the late summer. The contractors currently have operational control of the site, which is closed to the public due to strict safety measures.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10235/Saxonvale-site-clearance-works-set-to-go-ahead-this-summer>

A real treat for Street as food-festival-first sets up stall in Mendip – and coming to Wells soon!

Street residents turned out to support the Little eat:Festivals produce event - a first for Mendip. Cllr Simon Carswell, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development at Mendip District Council, attended the festival. He said: "It was actually quite moving to see High Street so alive on Sunday."

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10236/A-real-treat-for-Street-as-food-festival-first-sets-up-stall-in-Mendip>

The popular food and drink events will be delivering four 'little eat: Festivals' in Street, Glastonbury, Wells and Shepton Mallet during July and August, showcasing around 20 of Somerset's finest local producers. The events have been commissioned by Mendip District Council, working with eat: Festivals and with monies from the European Regional Development Fund.



For more information about the 'Little eat: Festivals' in Mendip, plus other major eat: Festivals planned, visit: www.eatfestivals.org

European Regional Development Fund visit: <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>

Press release: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10201/Mendip-welcomes-multi-award-winning-food-and-drink-festival-to-its-high-streets-this-summer>



Electric Bike and Car Survey

Have you ever needed to use an electric bike or electric car for just a few hours or a day? Perhaps you need an electric bike for a short time or are interested in an electric cargo bike for deliveries. E-bikes are a great alternative to the car for commuting, everyday errands and leisure trips. Electric bikes could be rented and returned from bike stations around the town.

That's why we are talking to Co Cars about bringing shared electric bikes and shared electric cars to locations around Mendip. Co Cars is a not-for-profit co-operative social enterprise that already successfully runs a network of shared, low and zero-emission cars and bikes across the South West.

To help us gauge interest in Co Cars coming to Mendip, please take a couple of minutes to complete our short survey <https://bit.ly/Mendips> **31 August 2021**.

The results of this survey will be shared with Mendip District Council to assist their planning by providing important evidence. All data collected is held in accordance with Co Cars' privacy policy: www.co-cars.co.uk/visitor-privacy.

If you would like further information on Co Cars, including full details of their current locations and pricing, visit www.co-cars.co.uk.

Mendip drives down carbon emissions - but further, urgent action required

Mendip District Council is determined to drive down CO2 emissions. However the Council recognises urgent, ongoing action is required by residents, businesses and central government to avoid a climate crisis.

Mendip is one of 300 councils nationwide to have declared a climate emergency. In February 2019 it pledged 'to make best endeavours to enable the district to become

carbon neutral by 2030'. Recent modelling of a Future Emissions Pathway, produced by the Council and adopted by Cabinet, showed the district is currently on course for a 30% reduction in emissions - way off its carbon neutral target.

Read more here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10212/Mendip-drives-down-carbon-emissions-but-further-urgent-action-required>

The Pledge Card can be downloaded from the Council's website here: www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8650/Climate-Action

Explore Mendip's **climate change pages** here: www.mendip.gov.uk/climatechange

News on grants and funding

Businesses can get grant help at Mendip

The Additional Restrictions Grant (Round 4) is still available for businesses that are not business ratepayers and were required to close by law due to COVID lockdown. It is also for ratepayers who were not required to close but who were nevertheless severely impacted by the national restrictions and were ineligible for Restart Grants. Apply today! Full details can be found here: [COVID-19: Business Grants](https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10042/Another-round-of-business-grant-help-opens-at-Mendip)
<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10042/Another-round-of-business-grant-help-opens-at-Mendip>

Two new funds available for community and eco projects in Mendip!

Mendip District Council has launched two new grant funds – one for communities and one for climate and ecological emergency projects. Voluntary, community, not-for-profit organisations and City, Town and Parish Councils are invited to apply for the funding. **DEADLINE EXTENDED! Until September 30th.**

Details can be found here: www.mendip.gov.uk/cf and www.mendip.gov.uk/ccf

Grants from The Somerset Fund available for local charities

Grants up to £2,500 are now available for core costs for smaller charities, community groups, sports clubs and social enterprises based in Somerset. Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) manages The Somerset Fund and is encouraging groups that run on less than £100,000 per year to apply now for funding. Applications can be made through SCF's website. The **deadline to apply is 5pm, Friday 13 August 2021.**

You can find out more here: <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/news/416/73/Grants-from-The-Somerset-Fund-available-for-local-charities>

£500K fund to help Somerset's communities open up safely – opens September 2021

£500,000 fund is being launched by Somerset County Council to help towns and parishes reopen community facilities safely and bring people back together. As national coronavirus restrictions ease, the County Council is working in partnership with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to help towns and parishes open up village halls, meeting rooms and other facilities in a Covid-secure way. The safe reopening will reassure people that they can reconnect with their communities after long months of isolation and remove some of the anxieties they may have around social mixing.

The money is being allocated by Somerset County Council from Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), provided by the Department for Health and Social Care to support public health activities directly related to the Covid-19 response. The fund is due to launch in September 2021 and will be led and administered by SALC with support from the County Council.

Hedge your bets

Plant hedgerows in your community with grant funding from the Tree Council. The Tree Council's *Close the Gap Community Hedge Fund* can provide up to 100% grants for volunteer Tree Wardens and community groups in England to plant new hedgerows, hedgerow trees and gap up existing hedgerows in winter 2021/22. Planting can be in rural or urban areas on private or public land where the community will benefit. Farmers/landowners can register their interest in a related *Farmers Hedge Fund* being run by our colleagues at the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) for planting and gapping up agricultural hedgerows by emailing farmhedgerows@treecouncil.org.uk

Details here: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/apply-for-our-community-hedgefund/>

Fund for farmers and land managers in Mendip

A major new fund to help farmers and land managers in the Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) has been announced called *Farming in Protected Landscapes*. Through the programme, farmers and land managers can be supported to carry out projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses. In the Mendip Hills AONB, the AONB Unit will be awarding £450,000 between now and the end of March 2024.

For more information visit: <https://www.mendiphillsaonb.org.uk/caring-about-the-aonb/farming-in-protected-landscapes/>

Partnership updates



Leisure Facilitates from July 19th – Freedom Day

Fusion Lifestyle and Mendip District Council are pleased to announce that in line with the government roadmap, classes, sessions and capacities at leisure facilities will increase from Monday 19th July in a phased approach. Despite these changes to capacity, some things will remain the same – the stringent safety procedures at all centres will remain in place to ensure the safety of customers.

Increases in capacity will include the gym, group exercise programmes and spaces in our swimming pools and Swim School programmes.

The changes will allow more people to exercise safely at centres across Mendip.

Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance, via download of the Fusion Lifestyle app or visit www.fusion-lifestyle.com to register and use the booking facility.

For centre opening times and timetables please visit your centre's website www.fusion-lifestyle.com/our-locations/mendip/

Press Release: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10247/Leisure-Facilities-in-Mendip-to-Increase-Capacities-from-19th-July>

Glastonbury Unauthorised Encampments Multi-Agency Group Update

Bailiffs on-site at Bretenoux Road

Bailiffs and enforcement officers were on-site at Bretenoux Road on Monday 5th July, after a court hearing gave them powers to forcibly remove vehicles whose registered keepers had failed to relocate. Enforcement officers were pleased to note that vehicle owners moved of their own accord with no further action required. New parking enforcement signs are also now in place along Stonedown Lane. A number of penalties have since been issued and vehicles moved on, with parking enforcement officers trialling wearing new bodycams whilst on patrol in the area.

The Glastonbury Unauthorised Encampment Multi-Agency Group continue to monitor the situation with enforcement occurring. If you have any further questions or issues to raise regarding Glastonbury unauthorised encampments or the MAG, please phone call 0300 123 2224 or contact Glastonburyencampments@somerset.gov.uk

Somerset Waste Partnership - Disruption continues

For more information on waste services, visit: somersetwaste.gov.uk, sign up for the SORTED! e-newsletter or follow @somersetwaste on Facebook or Twitter

New Covid Confident Communities booklet to help groups gather safely and support community spaces to reopen

Across Somerset, voluntary groups play an important role – helping individuals in need, connecting people and ensuring that we have vibrant, supportive communities in which to live. Whether you're running a community group, managing volunteers, or are a volunteer working directly with the public, this booklet has been designed to help you get out and about and gather safely again. It will also be useful for anybody looking to reopen a community building and accommodate everyone safely.

Download a free copy: <https://www.sparksomerset.org.uk/resource-library/33>

Council contact centres support vaccination efforts

Staff from Somerset's Local Authorities have helped to speed up the county's vaccination programme by making thousands of calls to organise vaccine appointments. Throughout the course of the pandemic, the contact centres of

Somerset's five councils have joined forces to support the people of Somerset and the NHS.

In total council staff made approximately 133,693 phone calls and booked in 32,303 appointments across Somerset. As of June 13, 2021, a total of 687,694 vaccinations have been given in Somerset, and the success of the vaccination roll out has contributed to significant falls in infections, hospitalisations and deaths from the virus. Mendip District Council's offices in Shepton Mallet were transformed into a vaccination hub. NHS continue their operations there, supported by Mendip staff.

The Coronavirus Helpline has received more than 14,000 calls to date. The number is 0300 790 6275, and is available seven days a week, from 8am to 6pm, offering a range of support from help accessing food and medicines, to emotional and financial support, as well as employment, skills and business advice.

Press release: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10139/Council-contact-centres-support-vaccination-efforts>

Events and Campaign News

Wells to host South West Regional Finals of the Young Trader of the Year 2021 Thursday July 29th

The National Federation of Market Trading (NMTF) announce that the full Young Traders Market 2021 will go ahead — regional finals will be staged leading to the national final at Stratford-upon-Avon on Friday and Saturday, August 27th and 28th. Young traders from across the South West will gather in Wells on Thursday 29 July for a day of trading in the regional finals. Mendip Markets are proud to host and support this event again. Some 25+ market stalls showcasing the best young traders in the South West, including young traders from our own markets, will feature there.

The Young Trader of the Year is a national competition to find the best young trader (aged between 18 to 30) and promote market trading as a business opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

Last year the regional finals could not be held because of the pandemic and the category winners had to be judged remotely.

A Little Night Market – a summer one-off event for Frome this July

Summer nights in Frome are about to get a little bit more exciting! The team behind The Frome Independent are producing 'A Little Night Market' a one-off event for the evening of Friday 30th July, inspired by the summertime night markets traditionally found in France.

There will be music, food and a selection of traders from Frome and the local area, selling local produce, vintage and flea market goods, and contemporary craft. 'A Little Night Market' will take place from 5:30pm until 10pm on Friday 30th July, at the Market Yard in Frome, Somerset www.thefromeindependent.org.uk/events

A Little Night Market is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund to welcome visitors safely back to Frome and to support local businesses.

Parish Forum – Community and Climate and Ecological Emergency Grants

Please join us for a virtual Parish Forum meeting. We sincerely hope Councillors will be able to attend.

In June, Mendip launched a £350,000 Community Grant and a £50,000 Climate and Ecological Emergency grant. Applications are now being received.

This Forum will give an overview of the application process and the criteria. There will be a number of presenters including the Woodland Trust and Somerset Wildlife Trust who will be able to give both ideas and where you can go for support for your projects.

Sharon Hale from SPARK Somerset will set out how SPARK can help when looking for funding etc and there will be the opportunity to ask any questions you might have about the application process and the grant criteria.

We look forward to seeing Councillors on 22nd July at 6:15pm

Thank You Day, July 4th

Thank You Day is a new national event supported by organisations such as the NHS, voluntary services, the Scouts etc. It encouraged people and communities to come together and celebrate. The Council supported this campaign and the sentiment behind it. Cllr Ros Wyke, Leader of Mendip District Council, sent a personal message to our community, our partners, members and staff.

Sunday 4th July

Today is Thank You Day – and it's a proud one.

I would like to thank our residents, local businesses, our partners, council staff and members for their extraordinary efforts and positivity.

Your response to this pandemic has been remarkable.

Covid-19 touched us all. I too experienced deep personal loss. But if I sometimes find myself slipping into sadness, I remember the countless acts of kindness, the bravery, and the sacrifices made, and the joy of witnessing new friendships being forged and of whole communities rallying together.

Thank you Mendip. Enjoy this national celebration.



Cllr Ros Wyke, Leader of Mendip District Council

Here's just some of the other local and national campaigns Mendip's Marketing and Media Team have supported this month:

Local and partners

- **HM Gov SW:** If you're watching the Euro football, follow gov guidance on social distancing
- **PHE SW:** Stay weather aware this weekend
- **NHS Somerset CCG:** Walk in vaccination centre at Bath and West showground
- **Lendology CIC:** We can support with roof replacement, electrics and damp proofing to new windows, heating, and energy measures
- **Homelessness in Mendip:** If you're likely to be homeless in the next 8 weeks, contact the council now for help
- **Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG):** If your business has been severely impacted by national restrictions, apply for an ARG.
- **Spark Somerset:** Grants up to £750 available for community sports clubs here
- **SWP:** We're hiring HGV drivers. Garden Waste service suspended.
- **Big Community Switch:** Time to decide if you want to accept your personal offer from iChooser to switch energy suppliers.
- **Annual Canvass:** Make sure your details are correct on the electoral register.
- **Stop Loan Sharks:** Bite back against loan sharks in Somerset.
- **Bath, Bristol and Somerset Tourism Awards:** Free workshop to help entrants complete their application forms for the awards.

National

- **Give Blood:** Blood rules changes which allows men who have sex with men to donate blood, platelets and plasma
- **EU Settlement Scheme:** Although the deadline has passed you can still make a late application.
- **Covid Roadmap Step 4:** Legal limits on social distancing and face coverings removed.
- **NHS:** All adults in England can now book their Covid-19 vaccine
- **Census:** If you haven't completed your Census, you have until 8 July to complete it or face a £1k fine
- **GB Spring Clean** – you can make a difference
- **It's Plastic Free July.** Simple actions go a long way
- **Its Clean Air Day,** please don't idle

Stronger Somerset Updates

**Stronger
Somerset**

Local Government Secretary's decision rides roughshod over voters of Somerset, say District Council Leaders

Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick, MP, has this evening (Wednesday 21 July) announced he has decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, the proposal for a single unitary council for the whole of the existing administrative county of Somerset.

The decision, announced in a [ministerial statement to Parliament](#) means that a single unitary council for Somerset will be formed on 1 April 2023 to replace the county's five existing county and district councils.

The decision follows a government-run consultation from 22 February to 19 April, with a reported 5,500 responses, and a local poll organised by the district councils that took place from 18 May to 4 June, that saw more than 111,000 people voting, with 65% preferring the Stronger Somerset proposal.

In a joint statement, the Leaders of Somerset's four District Councils said: "The Secretary of State is riding roughshod over the people of Somerset who voted 65% to 35% in favour of the Stronger Somerset plan over the other scheme chosen by the Secretary of State.

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10248/Local-Government-Secretary-s-decision-rides-roughshod-over-voters-of-Somerset-say-District-Council-Leaders>

Councillors in the news

Saturday 10th July BBC Radio Somerset

CLLr Simon Carswell promote the Eat:Festivals in Mendip.

Listen from 2hrs: 55 mins: <http://ow.ly/ZZye50Ftjiu>

Mendip Monthly is compiled and issued by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team.

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