

MDC Mendip Monthly

For our city, town, and parish councils

OCTOBER 2022

Electric vehicle charging points go live in Mendip car parks

Electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) are live and ready to use in three Mendip car parks, as installation works are completed.

Three charging points are now available to use in South Street Car Park and Union Street Car Park in Wells and Great Ostry Car Park in Shepton Mallet, which can service a total of 18 electric vehicles between them.

Other Mendip car parks will soon see their EVCPs go live in the coming months. Mendip District Council and partners, EB Charging, are installing 43 22kW Alfen chargers, in 13 council-owned car parks this autumn.

Full story here: www.mendip.gov.uk/article/11230/Electric-vehicle-charging-points-go-live-in-Mendip-car-parks

Greenspace consultation launches

Residents are being encouraged to share their comments and views on the district's local parks, woodlands, recreation and green spaces. An online consultation has been launched to help Mendip District

Council evaluate the offering and services that currently exist.



The Council recognises the protection of existing greenspaces, green networks and the creation of appropriate new greenspaces is essential to healthy and vibrant local communities.

To complete a consultation form, residents are being signposted to the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which covers Local Plan policies relating to new and existing open spaces and recreational spaces, and provides a description of the valued characteristics of sites.

Comments are invited now, on the draft SPD and Greenspaces Audit. **The consultation closes on 25 November 2022.**

Learn more here: www.mendip.gov.uk/article/11238/Council-consultation-seeks-views-on-Mendip-s-green-spaces



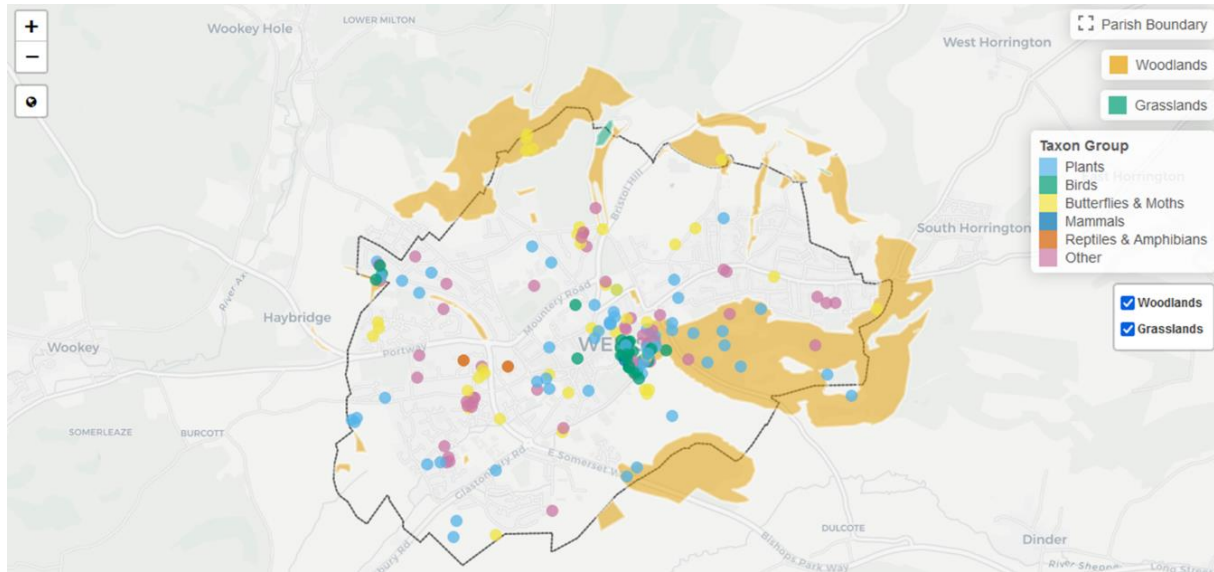
Climate action at Mendip



Action for nature

At Mendip's Parish Forum this month, Pippa from Somerset Wildlife Trust talked about the Community Wildlife Mapping.

Community Wildlife Mapping is linked to iNaturalist and allows people to record wildlife they've found in their local area. You can see an example for Wells below:



There's lots of resources to get started and if you haven't got a smartphone, you can upload records through the iNaturalist website here: [A Community for Naturalists · iNaturalist](#)

Join parishes across Somerset who are getting involved in Community Wildlife Mapping: www.somerc.com/community-wildlife-mapping/com-map/

Find out how to use iNaturalist here: www.somersetwildlife.org/wildlife/great-somerset-wildlife-count/big-count-2022/how-use-inaturalist

Team Wilder

Team Wilder is a growing group of people across Somerset (and the UK) taking action for nature in their lives, communities, businesses, places of worship, schools and beyond.

Somerset Wildlife Trust are developing resources to support locals find ways to help, including:

- A Wilder Community Action Pack – a dedicated, detailed guide to setting up and running an action group for nature.
- Habitat management and creation guides.
- Training videos on tree planting, wildflower grassland creation and management, hedgerow surveying, pond creation and more.

- Ideas of ways to stand up for nature in your community and beyond.
- Small actions that add up.
- [Team Wilder Map](#) – add your group to the map to find out what is already happening in your area.
- Join communities across Somerset taking part in [Wilder Churches](#), working together to find ways to increase the value of churchyards, burial grounds and other faith-associated spaces for wildlife.
- Join the Team Wilder mailing list and/or [Facebook](#) group to learn from others and share ideas: teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org.
- Somerset Wildlife Trust can also provide tailored advice and support to parish councils interested in coordinating action for nature in their communities – get in touch: teamwilder@somersetwildlife.org.

Current funding opportunities

Community Climate Action Fund: Fund between £300k - £500k on projects linking together nature and climate: [Climate Action Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](#)

UK Community Tree Planting Grants: Funding available for local communities to plant trees: [UK Community Tree Planting Grants – International Tree Foundation](#)

National Allotment Gardens Trust: £250 - £1k available for allotment communities: [Grant Application - NAGTNAGT \(nagtrust.co.uk\)](#)

The Mendip Hills Fund: £2k for conservation, maintenance and management and equipment towards conservation activities within the Mendip Hills AONB character area: [The Mendip Hills Fund – Somerset Community Foundation \(somersetcf.org.uk\)](#)

The Woodland Trust: Free tree packs for communities; [Free Tree Packs Application Form - Woodland Trust](#)

The Tree Council: Grants available for orchards at schools, community planting and trees, hedgerows for wildlife and biodiversity: [Our grants - The Tree Council](#)

Wildlife Watch out in November

There are many local wildlife events taking place this November for you to get involved with or to simply enjoy the beautiful autumn colours.

Fabulous Fungi

Head to the woods or fields to find amazing fungi. The Wildlife Trust is running their “Fantastic Fungi Focus” Citizen Science event from 4-6 November. Anyone can join in! For fungi resources and details on how to get ready, visit: [Fantastic Fungi Focus | Somerset Wildlife Trust](#)



National Tree Week, 26 November - 4 December

If you are thinking of planting trees or hedges during National Tree Week, The Tree Council have some useful planting guides to help you: [National-Tree-Week-planting-guide-1-2.pdf \(treecouncil.org.uk\)](#)

Schools and children interested in learning more about trees and finding resources should visit: [National Tree Week 2022 - Teaching Resources and Information \(twinkl.co.uk\)](#)