

# **SOMERSET COUNCIL**

## **Rode Parish Council**

### **Cllr Dawn Denton**

**February 2025**

**\*\*SOMERSET PRESS RELEASES:** You can view all the Somerset County Council press releases for the last month using this link: [Newsroom](#)

**\*\*OPEN CONSULTATIONS:** [Citizen's Space](#)

**\*\*FLOOD ENGINEERING:** Sean Papworth has assured me he will find the resources to carry out the needed engineering work. I will continue to engage with him this month.

**\*\*GRIT BINS:** I believe the bins are still empty. I will chase again and cc the clerk.

**\*\*SPORTSMAN:** I am working with the Highways team to work out what needs to be done to get this road adopted.

**\*\*RIGHTS OF WAY AND DIVERSIONS:** The Rights of Way team will lose over 40% of their team. This means that any issues in the system will progress slower. I will see what I can do, but I think this will be a long wait.

**\*\*SLIP ROAD:** I have not heard anything and will continue to chase.

**\*\*ASSISTED WASTE COLLECTION:** Somerset Waste Services offer assisted waste collections to over 13,500 homes. This is where Crews collect containers from an agreed place outside a resident's home, empty the contents, and return the containers back to the agreed location. This is a free service, offered to any resident who needs extra help with their recycling and rubbish removal on collection day. [More information](#)

**To ensure the councils records are up to date anyone that currently receives the service (prior to June 2024) will be receiving an email or letter in the near future to ask you to confirm that you still require the service.**

**\*\*A CALL FOR SITES IS OPEN:** Work has started on the first stages to draw up the first Local Plan covering the Local Planning Authority Area for Somerset. (it does not include Exmoor National Park as that has its own Local Plan).

A Call for Sites has been launched - whereby Landowners, developers, and site promoters are being invited to submit land they would like to be considered for possible future development with potential uses such as housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches, renewable energy installations, and leisure/recreation facilities. However, anyone can suggest a site for consideration that they think may be suitable for development.

The call for sites will run until 24 February 2025. This will be followed by an assessment of each site's suitability, availability, and achievability. The findings will be presented in a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) report later this year. This will be one source of evidence to help inform which sites might be considered for allocation in formal consultations for the Somerset Local Plan. [More information](#)

**\*\*ONLINE SESSIONS TO HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND COMPLEXITIES OF CARE PLANNING:**

Somerset Council is holding a series of free, online webinars to help individuals plan care and support needs for themselves or those they care for. These informative sessions aim to provide valuable insights and practical advice on navigating the complexities of care planning.

Topics covered will include understanding your care options, financial planning, and how to access local support services. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive guidance from professionals in the field.

You can register for the [free events HERE](#) and below:

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm – 8pm: [Financial Assessments for Care Funding](#)

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm – 7.15pm: [Navigating Direct Payments](#)

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.15pm– 8pm: [Supporting the Armed Forces community in Somerset](#)

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> February 6.30pm – 7.15pm: [Personalised Community Support for Carers in Somerset](#)

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> February 7.15pm – 8pm: [Understanding how Adult Social Care works](#)

**\*\*DEFRA SCRAPS ENGLAND DEADLINE TO REGISTER THOUSANDS OF MILES OF RIGHTS OF WAY:**

The last government set a deadline of 2031 for all rights of way in England to be added to an official map. The new government has now said it will repeal this new deadline when parliamentary time allows.

Once recorded as *rights of way* and added to the definitive map, paths are protected under the law for people to use. In an announcement timed to mark the traditional Boxing Day stroll by many people, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announced it would remove the registration deadline.

**\*\*GUIDANCE FOR REPORTING SAFETY ISSUES ON SOMERSETS ROADS\*\***

A quick and simple online reporting service is available 24/7. It's the best way to report any problems spotted on our county's roads – including snow and ice issues. This can be used to report non-urgent incidents both during hours and out of hours at the weekend [HERE](#)

You can also report a hazard on the road using this online form, including items or obstructions such as rubbish, tyres or blown/displaced traffic cones [HERE](#)

How do I report an urgent incident that's a safety risk at the weekend, or outside normal working hours?

To report an **urgent out-of-hours** highways issue that's a risk to public safety, please call Somerset Lifeline 0300 123 2224.

There is a dedicated call centre resource to deal with out-of-hours highways matters. Operators will notify the highways duty officer if appropriate, and they will take any necessary action.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If the hazard is on the M5, A303 or A36 please contact National Highways 0300 123 5000.

Gritting/salt spreading – this is the link to the roads that are salted in Somerset [HERE](#)

Towns and parishes interested in additional winter service provision should contact the Kier Community Engagement Manager direct: [somersetehm@kier.co.uk](mailto:somersetehm@kier.co.uk)

**\*\*A Fire Service Consultation relating to responses to Automatic Fire Alarms Closes 9 April 2025:**  
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service has started a consultation with options to change how we respond to automatic fire alarms. The consultation is open until 9 April 2025 [HERE](#)

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