

SOMERSET COUNCIL

Rode Parish Council

Cllr Dawn Denton

January 2025

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

****FLOOD ENGINEERING:** Jim McAuliffe and I have both been chasing to get a response and timeline for this work to be carried out. It is now almost a year since the council came out to assess the issue.

****GRIT BINS:** Both Hugh Williams and I have been chasing to get these bins filled and I believe the council Grit Team have the village on the high priority list.

****THE SPORTSMAN:** I am still chasing the council about the adoption of this road.

****CONSERVATION AREA:** I will continue to chase and elevate.

****SLIP ROAD ONTO A36:** National Highways should have heard about the funding before the end of 2024. I will update as soon as I have more information.

****RIGHTS OF WAY:** Cllr Adam Boyden and I will get together in January to work out what we can do about this.

****COLLAPSED PAVEMENTS:** I have not heard back and will chase this month.

****LOCAL PLAN CALL FOR SITES:** Somerset Council will **be launching a Call for Sites in the new year** as it prepares to develop its first Local Plan. The new Somerset Local Plan will generally supersede all existing former district council Local Plans, which will remain part of the Development Plan until they are officially replaced.

The Call for Sites is a six-week period where landowners, developers, and site promoters are invited to submit land they want to be considered for future development.

Submissions can be for various uses including housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches and plots, and renewable energy installations.

You can keep up to date with the Somerset Local Plan and other planning policy news by signing up To the Plan-it Somerset Newsletter: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/plan-it-somerset-newsletter-sign-up/>

****NEW FOSTERING CAMPAIGN:** 20th December saw the release of Somerset Councils latest Fostering promotional film which is being aired on ITV and SKY from 20 December 2024 **until 16 February 2025**.

You can watch out for the film during ad breaks - you can also view it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZc-vespgeE>

More foster carers are urgently needed in Somerset – Can you make a difference to a child’s life and help to change a child’s story?

Call 0800 587 9900. <https://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/>

****SOMERSET BUSINESS SURVEY 2024-25:** Somerset Council, working with the Somerset Growth Board, has recently launched the fourth iteration of the Somerset Business Survey.

The survey is an opportunity for Somerset businesses of all types, shapes and sizes, to tell the Council and Growth Board what it is like to do business in the county and what is most important to them. Questions ask respondents about the nature of their business, their growth aspirations, as well as their barriers to, and opportunities for, success. For example, if businesses are facing challenges around recruitment or staff retention, struggling with digital connectivity or getting access to finance, or simply lacking the space needed to grow, we want to know.

The survey that **closes on 24 January 2025** will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and is anonymous, but businesses can provide contact details at the end to be kept in the loop about the survey results and details of other economic development initiatives.

The results of the survey will help shape the new Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy, which is currently in development, and will also support the wider work of the Economic Prosperity Service.

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/economic-development/business-survey-2024/>

****SUPPORT FOR SOMERSET FARMERS:** Somerset Councillors came together to back local farmers and food producers in their last meeting of 2024. With 3 motions passed that backed our rural communities, there was a clear message that Somerset Council is pro-farmers and the vital role they play in our economy and environment.

Conservative Councillors Faye Purbrick and Lucy Trimnell delivered impassioned statements for the debates that followed their proposed motions to oppose the family farm tax and support meat, dairy and arable farmers across our county.

More details of the motions can be found here:-

<https://www.somersetcountyconservatives.org.uk/news/support-our-farmers-and-stop-family-farm-tax>

There are nearly 4,500 farms in Somerset employing nearly 10,500 people. NFU analysis suggested 75% of commercial farms will be affected by this new tax meaning a total potential impact in Somerset of over 3300 farming families.

****REMINDER: PEOPLE LIVING IN SOMERSET ARE REMINDED THEY HAVE ACCESS TO A DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORT SERVICE KNOWN AS SLINKEY**

Demand responsive transport is a bookable, flexible service which residents can use if there is no public transport alternative. All users need to do is register online to start using the Slinky bus to get to the shops, to visit friends and family, get to college or social clubs, or access medical appointments.

You can also call:

01749 880482 for Mendip area

01823 331266 for Sedgemoor, Taunton and Wellington area

01643 707090 for West Somerset area

01935 477399 for South Somerset area

The service is available to anyone in Somerset who does not have access to a regular bus service, which is especially helpful to those in more rural locations. Previously having your own transport precluded you from using the service but from 1 September, that has changed – car owners can use Slinky.

****REMINDER: HAVE YOUR SAY ON A NEW POLITICAL MAP FOR SOMERSET COUNCIL – CONSULTATION CLOSES ON 20TH JANUARY.**

The Boundary Commission has launched a consultation on new division boundaries in Somerset:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

A public consultation has been launched to help shape new council divisions for Somerset Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England wants to hear people's views on where they live, to help make sure that the new divisions reflect the size and shape of local communities.

An electoral review is being carried out to make sure that each local councillor represents about the same number of electors, and that the divisions they represent reflect community identities.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Somerset Council should be **96**. This is a change from the current council, which has **110** members.

This stage of the consultation last for 10 weeks and closes on 20 January.

Boundary Commission Timetable:

22 October 2024 - 20 January 2025:	carry out an initial public consultation with communities
3 June 2025 - 11 August 2025:	carry out a public consultation on our proposals
2 December 2025:	publish our recommendations
TBC:	ask Parliament to approve our recommendations
2027:	new arrangements apply to local elections

****OTHER OPEN CONSULTATIONS:** <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/>

Proposed local validation checklist – closes 10th January

Budget Consultation – closes 15th January

2026-27 Admission arrangements for Somerset Council closes 20th January

Somerset Business Survey 24/25 – closes 24 January

Public Space Protection Order Consultation for former Mendip District Council Area

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