



Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on
**Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 1830 hrs in the Parish Hall, West
Lydford.**

Present: County Councillor Sully, Parish Cllrs. Bartlett, Fielding, Persson, Purcell,
Seehra, & Stocking and the Clerk a
And x3 members of the public

PLEASE NOTE OUR PARISH WEBSITE: lydfordonfosse.co.uk

September Minutes

151/23

Public Participation Session.

One of the consultees lent his support to the Banchory planning applications and stated that the Parish Council should be supporting young equestrian talent both at Banchory and The Old Rectory. He stated that in both cases, visual improvements had been made to their properties. The planning agent for The Old Rectory application (James U'dell) also made comments, which will be detailed in the planning section.

152/23

Policing/Neighbourhood Watch.

Lynne Mitchell has been contacted by the local PCSO to rejuvenate links between them and NHW. Cllr. Seehra to include local police reports on the website.

153/23

Community Speedwatch.

Ken Emsley informed the PC that there has to be three fatal accidents on our stretch of the A37 to qualify for a permanent speed camera. There is a meeting scheduled to try to change this policy. Frome has been awarded a £5K grant for a SID, so it may be worth re-applying for a grant for our parish. Latest figures are attached in the Appendix (Item 3).

Council session

154/23

Report from Somerset County Councillors.

County Councillor Claire Sully was in attendance this evening. County Council finances have been in the headlines of late, but she reassured the PC that Somerset were in relatively good shape. Making a unitary council has made some savings, however this has been mitigated by increasing interest rates and costs. Cllr. Sully was interested to hear of the PC's Mini matrix difficulties and will investigate further on our behalf. She also stated that we should report any "near misses" to Highways, as well as road traffic accidents. Cllr. Sully informed the council that the Small Improvement Grants are still on hold. She will be in attendance at the

LCN meeting on 4th October. Her full report is attached in the appendix (Item 1).

- 155/23 To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies received from Cllr. Frampton.
- 156/23 Declaration of Member's Interests.
Cllr. Bartlett (Old Rectory planning application - applicant)
Cllr. Purcell (Banchory planning application - consultee)
- 157/23 Minutes of previous meeting.
Minutes from the 28th July Parish Council Meeting were signed and approved by the chair.
- 158/23 Matters arising from previous minutes.
None.

Signed: _____

- 159/23 Planning matters.

New Planning applications: (4)

2023/1453/FUL (Case Officer: Jennifer Alvis)

Change of use of agricultural land to Equestrian. Erection of menage and landscape planting.

Banchory High Street West Lydford

Deadline for comments (extended): 14th September 2023

This was unanimously approved by the councillors.

2023/1591/FUL (Case Officer: Jane Thomas)

Partly demolish existing garage and convert with extension. Single storey side utility/porch extension.

Banchory High Street West Lydford

Deadline for comments (extended): 14th September 2023

This was unanimously approved by the councillors with the condition that the new extension be clad in stone or wood, to better fit with the village vernacular.

2023/1509/FUL (Case Officer: Kelly Pritchard)

Erection of replacement stable building for private equestrian use. (Retrospective).

The Old Rectory High Street West Lydford

Deadline for comments (extended): 14th September 2023

Planning agent James U'dell clarified that equestrian use at The Old Rectory was not under investigation in this retrospective application, only the changes to the existing stables. It was unanimously agreed that the improvements enhanced the listed building status of the property. The councillors were mindful that there had been a complaint from a neighbour and have suggested that both parties communicate with each other regarding some mitigation measures. Extending a dilapidated fence and putting in some mature planting might solve some of the issues. The applicant was keen to improve the view from the neighbour's side of the property once these issues were brought to light. To this end, the councillors unanimously supported the application, with mitigation measures as a condition.

2023/1600/LBC (Case Officer: Jayne Boldy)

Internal renovation works, new mechanical and electrical services and new family bathroom
Perrotts, Castle Cary Road, Lydford On Fosse

Deadline for comments (extended): 14th September 2023

This was unanimously approved by the councillors.

Applications Decided: (0)

Applications awaiting Decision: (8)

2020/1602/OTS (Case Officer Kelly Pritchard)

Outline Planning Permission for the erection of two dwellings with details of access.
Location: Land adjacent to Millway House, Fosse Way, Lydford On Fosse.

Comments were submitted to MDC by 12th October 2020.

Amended development proposal – One dwelling with details of access to be considered.

Deadline for comments to Somerset Planning East: 15th June 2023.

2023/0734/FUL (Case Officer Kelly Pritchard)

Erection of 1no. single storey dwellinghouse.

Location: Land At 355328 131038 Castle Cary Road Lydford On Fosse (Cotton's Lane)

Deadline for comments to Somerset Planning East: 15th June 2023.

2023/0806/FUL (Case Officer Kelly Pritchard)

Conversion and alterations of the existing barn to a residential dwelling.

Location: Rubbery Farm, Rubbery Lane, Lydford On Fosse

Deadline for comments to Somerset Planning East: 15th June 2023.

[2023/0264/FUL \(Case Officer Kelly Pritchard\)](#)

Proposed concrete block for lodge.

New Oaks Farm, Castle Cary Road, West Lydford Church Lane

Deadline for comments: 6th March 2023.

Signed: _____

[2021/1975/OTS](#)

Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of dwelling and garage.

Land At 356804 130886 Castle Cary Road Lydford On Fosse

Deadline for comments: 11th November 2021.

[2021/0898/FUL](#)

Erection of new dwelling, garage and associated access and parking.

Chestnut House Church Lane East Lydford Glastonbury Somerton

Comments were submitted to MDC 20th May 2021.

[2020/0851/OTS](#)

Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the construction of five dwellings and associated vehicular access with details of access & layout.

Church Lane, East Lydford, TA11 7HD

Comments submitted to MDC by 26th May 2020.

[2020/0910/FUL](#)

Erection of a single storey dwelling with associated access and parking

Land east of Squires Mardi's Lane, West Lydford

Comments submitted to MDC by 3rd June 2020

Planning Enforcements: (1)

[ENF/2022/0014](#)

Ash View Farm Fosse Way Lydford On Fosse

160/23 Finance:

/1 Payments Due

The following payments were approved.

Name of Payee	Description of Payment	Amount
Additional payments made since the last notification of the Agenda:		
J. Nicol	Clerks Salary for August '23	£293.00
TWM Traffic Control Systems	Mini Matrix	£5025.04
Shepton Mallet Landscapes (June)	Grass Cutting	£264.00
Shepton Mallet Landscapes (July)	Grass Cutting	£264.00
The following payments are due:		
J. Nicol	Clerk's Salary for September '23	£293.40
SALC	Training (Cllr Persson)	£25.00
SALC	Training (Cllr Frampton)	£25.00
SALC	Training (Cllr Frampton)	£15.00

/2 To agree accounts for July & August '23

The accounts were sent electronically to the chair and the other councillors, then approved and signed in the meeting.

/3 To agree the bank reconciliation for July & August '23

The bank reconciliation was sent electronically to the chair and the other councillors, then approved and signed in the meeting.

/4 PC Debit/Credit card/new bank account

Clerk still waiting to be contacted by Lloyds Bank.

/5 September Budget Sheet/Budget Allocation

Figures attached in the appendix.

Signed: _____

161/23 Councillor Roles & Responsibilities - The councillors had an informal meeting to discuss this item. The new roles are detailed below and who is responsible for them. Some tweaking may need to be done over the coming weeks to streamline these positions.

162/23 To receive reports on the following:

/1 Built Environment:

Planning - Cllrs. Bartlett & Stocking

Local Plan - Cllr. Purcell. Nothing to report this month. LCN to be included in this section next month.

Playground - Cllr. Seehra. The Lydford Sports Ground has just held a meeting to discuss the RoSPA report delivered last month. It was agreed that the playground is in need of updating and that this could be expensive. It was asked whether the PC would take on the running and liability for the playground. Cllr. Seehra to investigate who owns the land. This will be discussed further in next month's meeting.

/2 Natural Environment:

Footpaths - Cllr. Fielding. The Ramblers Association are helping to dig in gates next month. Cllr. Fielding will also finish repairs to the Millennium Bridge.

Climate/Environment - Cllr. Fielding

- Somerset Wildlife Trust Wilder Gardening Award Scheme - Cllr. Fielding and Lynne Mitchell to collaborate on this.

/3

Governance & Finance:

Strategic Planning - Cllr. Frampton

Financial Planning - Cllr. Frampton

- Precept - All
- NHW road sign expenditure - Approved. Lynne Mitchell to finalise costings.
- New Noticeboard for East Lydford - Mr Eames of East Lydford to be approached to see if he would make one for the parish. Tim Heal to be contacted by Cllr. Bartlett to ask permission to put a new board up on his property that runs adjacent to the road.
- Financial Management - Cllr. Frampton

/4

Transport:

Highways - Cllr. Persson

- Mini Matrix Update - Highways have stated that we do not have permission to erect the Mini Matrix equipment that the PC has purchased. Our County Councillor is going to challenge this on our behalf. If necessary, we have been given permission from the supplier to swap the Mini Matrix for two SIDS. We await the outcome of Claire Sully's investigation.
- Chapter 8 spend approval (£264 + VAT) - this was approved
- Finger Post restoration - Cllr Fielding to investigate whether this can be fixed with concrete or whether the fingerpost needs full restoration.

Public Transport - Cllr. Seehra. Current spend by the Bus Partnership is being concentrated in larger towns.

/5

Community Engagement & Support

Marketing/Website - Cllr. Seehra

Village Events - Cllr. Seehra

163/23

Chair and Vice Chair discussions

It was agreed that for the next few months there will be a rolling chair. Cllr. Frampton October, Cllr. Fielding November, Cllr. Purcell December.

164/23

Training Schedule/Expenditure

It was agreed that every councillor should take the Essential Councillor courses (Part 1 & 2) and thereafter, appropriate training for a particular role or responsibility must be financially agreed by the council.

Signed: _____

165/23

Future Meeting Dates to be decided

It was agreed that the 2nd Wednesday in the month was the regular meeting date going forward. List of dates to be sent to the Parish Magazine by Cllr. Seehra.

166/23

War Memorial: Protection Expenditure

Proposal to be delivered to the PC in the November meeting.

167/23

Memorial for Nigel Woollcombe-Adams

Cllr. Fielding is in discussion with a supplier of metal signs. It was agreed that Easter would be a

good time to officially open the walk.

- 168/23 Defibrillator**
For next month's agenda.
- 169/23 Agenda items for next meeting**
Precept
Defibrillator
Roles & Responsibilities
- 150/23 To confirm the date of the next meeting as October 11th**
This was confirmed.

Meeting finished at 2026 hrs

Minutes prepared by Julie Nicol

Signed: _____

Appendix...

1) Report From Somerset County Councillors

Current level of care spending needs Somerset Council to draw on reserves

Somerset Council is warning that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to fund the rising cost of both Adult and Children's social care. This is because demand is increasing for these services while Government is not providing the financial support needed.

Papers published ahead of a meeting of the Council's Executive on 6th September describe the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The warning comes as other councils in the UK are raising concerns that their budgets are unsustainable.

The papers reveal that the Council drew £18 million from reserves last year to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets in Adult and Children's care services. The Council has a legal obligation to fund these services, which have seen an unprecedented rise in both overall demand and complexity of need since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite the challenges we will maximise opportunities in economic development. We will review our whole capital programme to ensure that we create a Somerset Council that is sustainable in the longer term.

Grit and Determination for Rural Communities.

The aim of Grit & Determination is for Somerset rural communities to be prepared for winter, through community self-supporting, and to prevent our rural areas from being cut off.

It builds community resilience, to meet the challenges of winter planning in rural areas. Where the gritting service is unable to reach.

We are in discussions to start pilots with Somerset Highways. If you want to get involved get in touch.

County's prime ethical ad spots can help fund highway maintenance

Local businesses can now take advantage of some of the busiest spots on Somerset's road network to advertise socially responsible goods and services.

Somerset Council is one of the first local authorities in the UK to develop an ethical advertising policy in line with the county's climate emergency strategy and public health concerns.

The space is available for advertising a wide range of goods and services which do not need to be specifically promoting sustainability or wellbeing, but the ethical advertising policy means that the Council will not sanction certain adverts such as those promoting junk food, fossil fuels, gambling or consumption of alcoholic

drinks.* A full list of the criteria is available here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/advertising-on-roundabouts/>

The money generated by the initiative will go back into the Council's highways maintenance budget.

Signage and positioning on the roundabouts is subject to a strict safety audit and will at the same time help to prevent unofficial 'fly notices' which are put up without permission.

The plan has the potential to reach thousands of people every day, and businesses can visit here to find out more or book on the link above.

*Whilst producers of alcoholic products are not excluded, particularly local based industries, advertisements of the alcoholic products themselves will not be permitted.

#LearnForLove – new family health and wellbeing resources worth £100 for every Somerset resident

A new series of online relationship, health and wellbeing resources worth £100 per person have been launched in Somerset.

The learning resources are available to all Somerset residents, and span topics such as pregnancy, labour and birth, parenting, mental health and wellbeing, and relationships.

Residents can access the online learning by:

- Visiting bit.ly/LearnForLove or scanning a QR code with their phone
- Entering the code 'dragon'

They can then choose the subjects they are most interested in learning about – there is no limit on the number of resources residents can access. An email address is needed for those signing up, but no other personal information is needed.

To find out more about Connect Somerset, contact ConnectSomerset@somerset.gov.uk

Welcome Hubs: Supporting a caring and diverse Somerset

Somerset is committed to supporting displaced people in the county as they seek to resettle and navigate a new life in the UK; from learning a new language, integrating into the local community, becoming independent and settling into a new and often very different daily life to previously. More and more, mutual benefit is being experienced as refugees share their knowledge and talents within their communities, creating a richness of culture and diversity.

In partnership with local services, charities and the generosity and kindness of communities, many individuals and families have been able to resettle safely and happily, with Somerset's 'Welcome Hubs' playing a key role for many during the earliest days of resettlement.

Offering vital assistance in finding a home, accessing public services and healthcare, seeking childcare and education services, as well as in finding work, the hubs are a first – and increasingly ongoing - port of call for anyone seeking guidance, support and connection.

Somerset has a long history of supporting people in need, no matter the circumstances. There are a number of ways to support displaced people in Somerset and more information can be found at:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/health-safety-and-wellbeing/refugee-resettlement-in-somerset/>

Single-Use Plastic Ban in England

Trading Standards is reminding businesses, such as takeaways, sandwich bars, care homes and retailers who supply certain single use plastic items, that a ban comes into force this October and they should start thinking now about alternatives and where to source them from.

The Government has announced a ban on a wide range of plastic items that is expected to come into effect from 1 October 2023.

It means that from October, businesses across England will not be able to supply certain single use plastic items to the end user.

The ban includes all single use plastic cutlery, trays, plates, bowls, and balloon sticks, as well as banning the use of certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers used to supply food which is ready to consume.

It is estimated that England uses 2.7 billion items of single use cutlery each year, and 721 million single use plates. Only 10% of these items are recycled.

Creating Places for People

Residents and businesses in Somerset are being urged to help shape the future of their county and have their say

on how best to create places that put people at the heart of their design.

Somerset Council is launching a public consultation to seek opinions on a set of outline “principles” that are designed to steer new development in Somerset. These should guide developers towards creating attractive and high-quality environments, but also inclusive and accessible places for all, regardless of age, gender, mobility, or background, where people enjoy living.

The principles should offer substantial benefit to people in Somerset by improving air quality; reducing carbon footprints; creating safe and easy access to schools; and places that are more resilient to the impacts of climate change while protecting and enhancing nature and wildlife.

Creating connected, safe and healthy places will also help to improve quality of life and wellbeing. The Council is proposing to prioritise active travel – cycling, walking and wheeling - along with public transport to reduce reliance on using private cars.

Places should be designed to allow easy access to shops, services and facilities that meet residents’ needs, with streets linking to existing communities and services. Most new development comes forward in or on the edge of our towns, and for those there would be more emphasis on enabling active travel - bike and e-scooter hire, car clubs and public transport - with less on parking provision.

While Somerset is a largely rural county, at present rural roads are the most hazardous for users, per mile travelled, so the principles would aim to provide safer streets and lanes for rural communities and the opportunity for sustainable travel. The principles are intended to make it easier for those able to walk, wheel, cycle or take public transport to do so, leaving space for those less able to make active travel trips or journeys by public transport, to continue to drive.

The consultation launches on 4 September and will run for six weeks until 16 October. People can take part via Citizen Space <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/creating-places-for-people>

Paper copies containing further information and the online survey questions will also be available to the public at the following locations:

- Bridgwater House, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR (Monday – Friday 8.45am to 5.00pm)
- Council Offices, Cannard’s Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT (Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm)
- Petters Way Council Offices, Yeovil, BA20 1AS (Monday – Tuesday and Thursday – Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm, first Wednesday of the month 11.00am to 4.00pm and every other Wednesday 9.00am to 4.00pm)
- Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1HE (Monday – Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm)
- West Somerset House, 20 Fore Street, Williton, TA4 4QA (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm)
- County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY (Monday – Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 09:00am to 4.00pm)
- Libraries including: Taunton, Minehead, Frome, Bridgwater, Yeovil and Glastonbury

Responses can be emailed to localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk, or posted to Planning Policy, Somerset Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY. The principles agreed post-consultation will be considered as a material planning consideration subject to consultation and taking feedback into account.

The Council is keen to hear from as many people as possible – individuals, community and voluntary groups, businesses, transport providers, landowners, and city, town and parish councils as well as developers and their agents. This will help the Council to understand whether it is on the right track.

Gambling Policy Consultation

Somerset Council has to review its Gambling Policy every three years. The Policy document sets out our approach to the Council's licensing functions in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.

The policy will ensure:

- Activities are conducted fairly and openly
- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Children and vulnerable people are protected from harm or exploitation

Comments are invited on the draft revised Gambling Policy from all interested parties including residents and those running businesses in the County, the consultation documents can be found at:

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/gambling-policy-consultation/> The consultation will close

on 22nd September 2023. and responses will be considered, and any appropriate amendments will be made.

More than four tonnes of plastic saved as Frome residents back the move to recycle bags and wrapping

More than four tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping have been collected for recycling as part of Somerset Council's role in a national project to expand recycling collections.

The small-scale pilot involving 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome started at the end of May and is already proving a success.

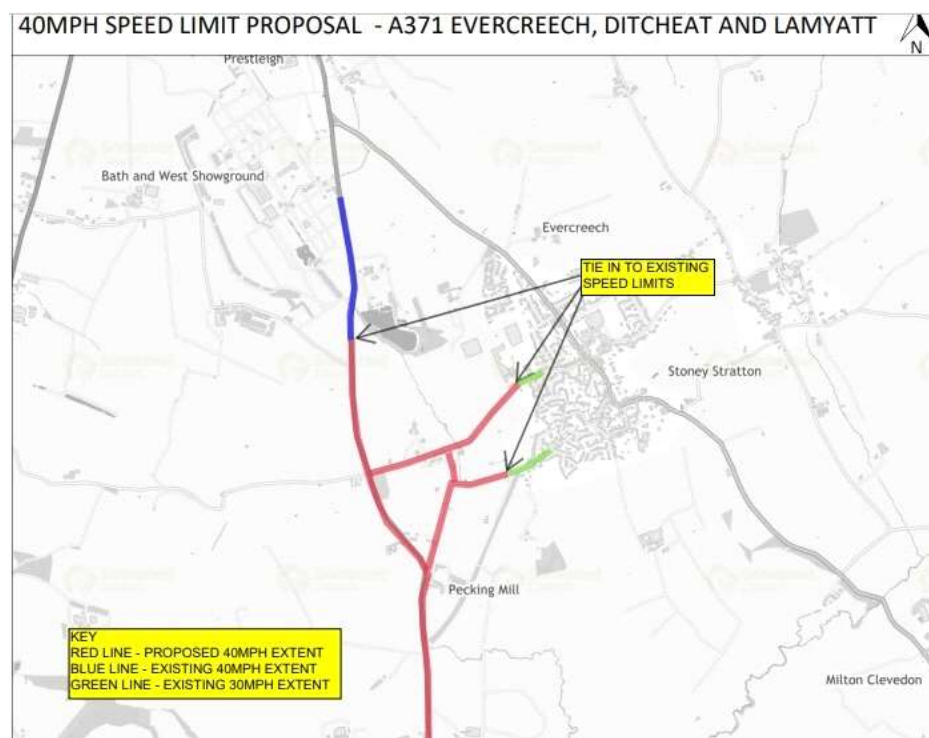
Residents in the trial areas are asked to put their flexible plastics, such as bread bags and confectionary packets, into a recyclable blue plastic bag for collection on their usual weekly recycling day.

Somerset Council put itself forward to be part of the £2.9m FlexCollect project which involves nine local authorities across England and is being managed in partnership with SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK.

The trial aims to inform government and industry on how plastic bags and wrapping should be added to existing household collection services. The full cost of the pilot service is funded by the Flexible Plastic Fund and the government. The only costs to the council are time and resources.

Only those who were written to directly can take part. It is expected it will be expanded to more Somerset homes next year, following further monitoring of the trial.

An update on A371 road safety measures



A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has now been issued for extending a 40 mph speed limit on the A371 and is being advertised, in line with The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

This covers the stretch from the Bath and West Showground southwards through Pecking Mill and Southwood to the junction of Wyke Champflower.

Subject to no objections being received the aim is to have the extended speed limit scheme in place around October 2023. Further information can be found on this link:

<https://cllrciaresully.co.uk/road-safety-measures-at-pecking-mill-corner/>

A new timetable for a decision on the planning application for 120 houses at the former Greencore Factory in Evercreech

West Estates Development Ltd. submitted outline plans to build 120 houses on the former Greencore factory site, which were refused twice by Mendip District Council in November 2021, and (for a revised planning application) in July 2022.

The Developer lodged an appeal to overturn this second refusal, with the Planning Inspectorate intending to stage a public inquiry into the matter in the late-spring. This didn't happen and here is why and what the revised timetable is:

The appellant (West Estates Development Ltd.) sought to amend the Nutrient Mitigation Strategy (in relation to phosphate generation from the foul drainage) for the scheme when they submitted their appeal documents. This led to Somerset Council Officers informally re-consulting the affected statutory consultees to assist in putting together the Council's case. Somerset Council shared the responses with the appellant, which included concerns from Natural England about the new Nutrient Mitigation Strategy. The appellant asked the inspector to delay the appeal as the advice from Natural England had changed following revised guidance issued in March (i.e. since the Developer amended their scheme). The Developer were seeking more time to further revise their scheme to take on board the latest phosphates guidance. Given the nutrient issue is ever evolving the inspector allowed for this delay.

The Public Inspectorate Inquiry (the appeal to the planning refusal) will now commence on November 8th, 2023.

Local Community Networks News

During the inaugural meeting for **Shepton LCN** (Area 3) on Monday 31st July, I (Cllr Claire Sully) was duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Shepton Local Community Network. Cllr Philip Ham was duly elected as Chair.

LCN Shepton areas include: Shepton Mallet, Batcombe, Chilcompton, Coleford, Cranmore, Croscombe, Ditchat, Doulling, Downhead, East Pennard, Evercreech, Holcombe, Kilmersdon, Leigh-on-Mendip, Milton Clevedon, Pilton, Pylle, Shepton Mallet, Stoke St Michael, Ston Easton, Stratton on the Fosse.

For more information about Local Community Network, please click here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>

Trial brings hope for phosphate mitigation funding

Somerset Council is hoping to secure Government funding to deliver phosphate mitigation measures which will unlock the delivery of 18,000 new homes across the area and provide for longer term nature recovery. The Council working in partnership with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), Plymouth University, Salinity Solutions, and Dorset Council, has submitted a bid for £10.5m to the Government's Nutrient Mitigation Fund.

The funding would be used to expand the Council's existing phosphate credit scheme and deliver both interim and long-term phosphate mitigation measures including the installation of modular units to provide a secondary treatment process at wastewater treatment works in the catchment area.

The new energy efficient water processing technology, developed by Salinity Solutions, has the potential to assist all the nutrient neutrality catchment areas by providing cost effective bridging measures to 2030 – meeting the Governments Technically Achievable Limit (TAL) proposed under the Levelling and Regeneration Bill. It would also work alongside the delivery of nature-based solutions for nutrient neutrality, which take longer to establish.

Salinity Solutions and Wessex Water have delivered a no-cost trial for Somerset Council to demonstrate the efficacy of their modular water treatment units for phosphate mitigation. A unit has been in place at the Fivehead Wastewater Treatment Works near Taunton for two weeks allowing independent water sampling to be undertaken. Early indications show promising results with the first verified laboratory results showing over 98%

of phosphates and 88% of nitrates removed.

For further information, visit: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/trial-brings-hope-for-phosphates-funding/>

The Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Awards are open for nominations

If someone in your community has gone above and beyond to help their community you can nominate them:

<https://orlo.uk/oekCO>

Awards will be presented at the Somerset Prepared Annual event. This free annual event will take place on 5th October 2023 at Wincanton Racecourse and brings together partners to celebrate Somerset's community emergency volunteers, with workshops, presentations, and equipment demos.

Learn more and book your place: <https://orlo.uk/0hvAj>

Rural England Prosperity Fund now open for applications (closing date September 15th).

Businesses and organisations in Somerset are being encouraged to find out if they are eligible for capital funding grants aimed at supporting businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas.

The funding is available following Somerset Council's successful £3.4 million submission into Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Closing date for Round 1 is 15 September 2023

This first call for applications is seeking to allocate a total of £850,000 to eligible capital infrastructure projects. These projects must be delivered – and grant funding spent - by the end of March 2024. Grants can be between £5,000 and £100,000 and match-funding contributions are required.

The REPF has very specific criteria set by Government. Therefore, Somerset Council's Economic Development team is urging businesses and organisations to carefully check eligibility on their website

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/funding-and-grants-for-business/>

To discuss a potential project applicants should email REPF@somerset.gov.uk in the first instance. A further £2.5 million call for proposals for capital project activity and expenditure in the 24/25 financial year is expected later in the year.

Government funding for Somerset's road to nature recovery

Somerset Council has been given the lead role in developing a plan to protect and enhance nature and wildlife in Somerset. The Council has been appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to lead the preparation of a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Somerset.

Led by the Council and the Somerset Local Nature Partnership, the strategy LNRS will be a new long-term evidence-based strategy to recover, protect and enhance nature and wildlife here in Somerset.

Over the next 12 to 18 months, the Council will establish what is needed to protect and restore Somerset's nature to benefit the biodiversity of habitats and species. It will also look to identify further environmental benefits, such as flood regulation, water quality and access to green space for health and wellbeing.

Working with the Somerset Local Nature Partnership, the Council will:

- Engage with stakeholders across the farming, health, community, development and natural resource management sectors.
- Drive a coordinated action plan.
- Highlight where the most important areas for nature are.
- Identify opportunities to restore, grow and connect wildlife in urban and rural areas.
- Adopt a joined-up approach working with residents, groups, landowners, and organisations to build a mapped framework

Opportunities for Somerset residents, businesses, farmers, landowners, and communities to have their say and contribute to the strategy will be shared in the coming months.

You can find more information on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the ongoing work to protect Somerset's environment in our climate strategy on the Somerset Council website.

Somerset households invited to offer Homes for Ukraine

More host families are needed in Somerset to help support Ukrainian refugees who have been forced to flee their country.

Since the Homes for Ukraine scheme was launched in March 2022, Somerset has welcomed over 1,500 Ukrainians to date, with host families playing a pivotal role in creating a safe environment for guests to re-settle and rebuild their lives in some way, supporting and helping them navigate a new life in the UK.

Becoming a host (or sponsor) can be hugely rewarding, with the key consideration being the ability to provide a bedroom and a comfortable place to live for a minimum of 6 months.

The next step is to register your interest and Somerset Council can provide more information about how hosts and guests are matched, training and support for both parties, checks and visits that form part of the arrangements, thank you payments to hosts and what to do if the relationship breaks down.

To find out more about the Homes for Ukraine scheme and to register your interest in becoming a host, visit Homes for Ukraine: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/housing-support/homes-for-ukraine/>

There are a number of ways to support refugees and asylum seekers in Somerset, in addition to hosting. If you are able to offer your time, skills or resources to supporting guests, get in touch at homesforukraine@somerset.gov.uk

Useful info Reminder

You can check which roads are being surface dressed here: www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/

You can see dates of planned works here: www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/roadworks-and-travel/ and make sure to follow Travel Somerset on Twitter and Facebook.

Sign-up for the latest climate news:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>.

Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities:

Live travel information

<https://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/>

Potholes and road damage

Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/potholes-and-road-damage/>

Report a problem with a street light

We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-with-a-street-light/>

Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting

- **September Budget Sheet**

MONTHLY BUDGET SHEET

	AS AT	CURRENT A/C	SAVINGS A/C	TOTAL	AP
APRIL	12/04/2023	£167.03	£11,314.38	£11,481.41	
MAY	17/05/2023	£580.64	£22,314.38	£22,895.02	
JUNE	14/06/2023	£2,167.65	£20,314.38	£22,482.03	
JULY	28/07/2023	£1,108.51	£20,406.06	£21,514.57	
AUGUST					
SEPTEMBER	13/09/2023	£809.87	£15,806.06	£16,615.93	
OCTOBER					
NOVEMBER					
DECEMBER					
JANUARY					
FEBRUARY					
MARCH					

* Less the following ringfenced expenditure: £5,500 for R

- Latest Speedwatch Figures

**Speedwatch
Summary**

**5th July 2023 to 7th September
2023**

Date	Time	Location	Movements	Speeders	Fastest mph 30	Fastest mph 40
05/07/2023	0830	B3153	295	5	43	
07/07/2023	1500	B3153	410	6	54	
11/07/2023	1140	B3153	251	9	50	
13/07/2023	0815	A37	766	8	40	
17/07/2023	1015	B3153	203	8	45	
19/07/2023	0825	B3153 West	287	10	48	
25/07/2023	1435	B3153	257	4	46	
26/07/2023	1350	B3153W	260	3	42	
28/07/2023	0815	A37 LB	581	11		55
01/08/2023	1315	B3153	273	10	50	
03/08/2023	1500	A37	724	8	41	
15/08/2023	1520	B3153	287	5	51	
16/08/2023	1440	B3153	288	8	51	
17/08/2023	0835	B3153W	271	9	47	
21/08/2023	1700	B3153	322	11	42	
22/08/2023	0830	A37 LB	633	10		52
29/08/2023	1125	B3153	287	7	40	
30/08/2023	0835	B3153W	297	24	54	
04/09/2023	1215	B3153	249	9	44	
07/09/2023	0845	B3153	268	12	46	
Totals for this time period		14 sessions	4997	131	54	55