

News Snippets from Somerset Council – May 2026

Fly-tipping, & residents' waste disposal responsibilities

Following a significant fly-tipping incident in Pilton on 1 April, the Somerset Council Environment Team have been working closely with local residents to gather evidence and develop leads. The site itself was cleared within 48 hours.

An important point for all residents: under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, anyone who arranges for a third party to collect their waste has a legal Duty of Care to ensure it is handled legally. If that waste is then fly tipped, the originator — not just the person who dumped it — can face prosecution. Always check your waste collector holds the relevant licence, and always obtain a Waste Transfer Note as your evidence.

The Somerset Conference of Trees – 12th June at Hornblotton

Between 9.15 AM and 4.30 PM, the conference will bring together foresters, tree spiritualists and woodland enthusiasts, plus architects, farmers, engineers and biodynamic practitioners. It will include a locally-sourced vegetarian lunch, and an afternoon of workshops in a mature oak forest. Cost £5-£20. Tickets can be booked online [here](#).

Cost of Living and Energy Crisis — Help Available

Somerset Council has received £22.6 million from the Government over three years to support residents facing financial hardship, with Citizens Advice Somerset appointed to lead delivery. If you are struggling, help is available — don't wait to reach out.

- **Heating Oil Help** — If you can't afford to top up your heating oil, you may qualify for urgent help if oil is your main heating source, you have under 300 litres left, and you're on Universal Credit, Pension Credit, or can show you can't afford a delivery. Call 0808 278 7842 or apply via the link below.
- **Crisis Help** — Facing a sudden financial shock? Support is available for Somerset residents on means-tested benefits or low incomes who can't cover essentials like food or energy.

Apply at [Crisis Help Form - Citizens Advice Somerset](#)

Somerset's Public Health Chief Urges Residents to Get Free Heart Check

Somerset's Director of Public Health, Alison Bell, is encouraging eligible residents to book a free NHS Health Check after having one herself. The checks, available to those aged 40–74

with no preexisting heart conditions, assess cardiovascular health and risk of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and stroke.

Appointments are available across the county including Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Wellington, Minehead, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Street, Wells and Wincanton. [Book your appointment here.](#)

PSTN landline switch-off checklist



9 THINGS TO DO NOW

Your landline is switching off.

Plain-English checklist. Don't wait to be contacted.

- 01** Don't wait for a letter
- 02** Find out your switch-off date
- 03** Test your old corded phone
- 04** Check medical & fall alarms
- 05** Check your burglar alarm
- 06** Plan for power & internet outages
- 07** Ask for emergency call backup
- 08** Write down key phone numbers
- 09** Ask for help, sooner not later

By January 2027, the UK's old copper phone network will be switched off, area by area. For older or vulnerable residents, particularly those with telecare alarms or no mobile phone, it can be confusing and potentially risky if they're not prepared in time.

Phonely have created a free guide to 'what you need to know' about this transition at [Digital Landlines UK: Ultimate Guide to 2027 PSTN Switch Off | Phonely](#). It offers information about the switchover to digital landlines, and links to compare the best digital landline providers in the UK.

