



**Somerset  
Council**

# Local Community Network Newsletter

## CHARD & BLACKDOWNS

For more information about LCNs, visit our website: [Somerset Local Community Networks](http://Somerset Local Community Networks)

**April 2026**

## Welcome to our newsletter

Our focus is the **community and working together**: local updates, useful information, and opportunities to get involved. If you have news to share or suggestions, please get in touch via [chardandblackdownslcn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:chardandblackdownslcn@somerset.gov.uk). We're trialling this newsletter, so the process, timing, and content will evolve over the next few issues, but we hope you'll find it useful! 😊



## Diary Dates

*Don't miss out!*

15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 11-3pm  
**Chard Community Day**  
The Hive, Chard

21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 2.30-4.30pm  
**Chard & Blackdowns LCN**  
Churchinford Village Hall

21<sup>st</sup> April & 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
10-12pm & 1-2pm  
**Wessex Water Drop-In**  
Chard Library

30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 9-1pm  
**Chard Community Hub's  
4<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**  
The Hub, Bowden Street, Chard

18<sup>th</sup> June 2026 7-9pm  
**Chard & Blackdowns LCN AGM**  
The Guildhall, Chard

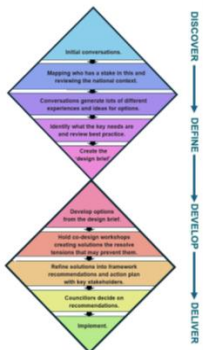


## Community Working Review

Citizen Network is working with Somerset Council on a review to improve how the council supports and involves local communities. The aim is simple: make it easier for people to be heard, help shape decisions, and build on what already works well locally.

The review also looks at how Local Community Networks (LCNs) and Link Officers can better connect residents, parishes, community groups and partner services—especially at a time of tight budgets and growing demand, and with possible new national rules for neighbourhood decision-making on the way.

The outcomes and recommendations will be known by Autumn 2026.



## Have Your Say, Your Voice Matters!

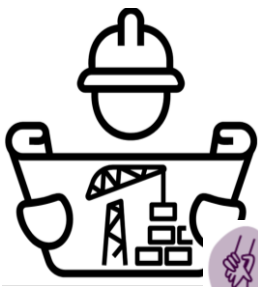
Share your thoughts and views by taking part in an online consultation. We'd love to hear from you in shaping Somerset Council services.

### Chard & Blackdowns LCN Consultations closing soon:

- **Somerset Health & Wellbeing Survey**

Residents are invited to complete a short, anonymous survey to help shape local health services. The survey takes around 15 minutes with a £50 prize draw available. Closes 27 Apr 2026

**Citizen Space - Somerset Health & Wellbeing Survey**



## Flooding & Planning

28<sup>th</sup> April 6.30-8pm online

RSVP by email to:

[bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk)



For general news & updates from Somerset Council, sign-up to our free e-newsletter **[Newsroom Sign-Up](#)**

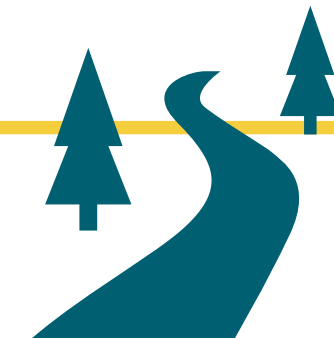
## Planned Highway Works 2026/2027

We are sharing early information about planned Highway works in the Chard & Blackdowns LCN area for 2026/2027 as part of Somerset Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving the condition, safety, and resilience of the highway network. You can find precise locations online via our [Public Information Portal](#) under the heading 'Capital Structural Maintenance Project'.

Email [highwayprogramming@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:highwayprogramming@somerset.gov.uk) with any questions.

For the latest live Highway works information, check [One.Network](#) online.

HSPR Ref	Work Type	Road Name	Parish
EW004220	Earthworks	Bounds Lane	Tatworth & Forton
PR001023	Principal Resurfacing	Old Town/Tatworth Road	Chard
DR001024	Drainage	Weston Road (Spittle Pond Cottages)	Wambrook
EW001010	Earthworks	Harvey's Lane	Buckland St. Mary



## Urgent financial assistance

Is available for low-income households struggling to pay for heating oil.

If you're at risk of running out visit [Citizens Advice Somerset website](#)

for full details and to apply or call 0808 278 7842 (select option 3)



Local children from this community need foster homes

fostering in Somerset

Call 0800 587 9900 or visit the website to learn more...

[www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk](http://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk)

## Proposed changes to the planning process in England

are open for statutory public consultation until 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026.

You can read the proposals and respond here:

[Planning committee reforms: statutory consultation on draft Regulations and guidance - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

Email: [planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk](mailto:planningcommittees@communities.gov.uk)



Do you know of any worthy young people in our area who should be recognised for their hard work, passion and community spirit? Nominate them for the Children and Young People Policing Awards 2026! [Nomination Form](#) (Closes 1<sup>st</sup> May)



The Big Bike Revival is a grant-funded Cycling UK programme that supports free, inclusive local cycling events to help adults fix bikes, learn skills and build confidence through led rides, making cycling a practical option for everyday journeys. Grant funding applications for up to £3,500 are now open until 1<sup>st</sup> June. Please get in touch via [chardandblackdownscn@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:chardandblackdownscn@somerset.gov.uk) if you'd like to discuss organising a Big Bike Revival event in our area.