



The latest news, views, and announcements

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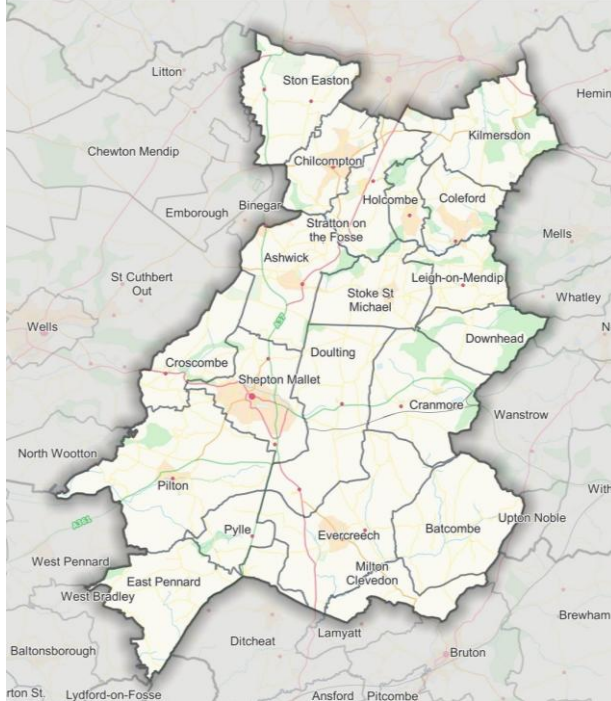
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Diary Dates

Don't miss out!



27th April 2026 7pm-9pm

Shepton LCN Main Meeting

Council Chamber, Council
Offices, Shepton Mallet



18th June 2026 2pm-4pm

Mendip Central Community Cars Partnership Meeting

Committee Room, Council
Offices, Shepton Mallet



6th July 2026 7-9pm

Shepton LCN AGM

Council Chamber, Council
Offices, Shepton Mallet

Hold the Date:



16th July 2026, 2pm-4pm

Highways and Transport Working Group Meeting

Committee Room, Council
Offices, Shepton Mallet



Mendip Central

Community Cars Partnership

Formed to support communities in the Shepton LCN create volunteer driver schemes, Mendip Central Community Cars Partnership comprises of town and parish councils with support from Somerset Community Foundation, Connect Somerset, various teams at Somerset Council, GP practices and Spark Somerset.

Our partnership work is being presented to representatives across our partner organisations at **Mendip Central Neighbourhood Team meeting** 23rd April 2026 2pm-4.30pm, Council Chamber, Council Offices, Shepton Mallet

Our own next partnership meeting is on 18 June.

In the meantime, please get in touch to find out more and to get involved via sheptonlcn@somerset.gov.uk

Final Call: 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.

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](#)



SOMERSET DEMENTIA
Wellbeing Service

VCFSE Somerset Dementia Partnership

On 19 March, Spark Somerset facilitated a **Somerset Dementia Conference**, showcasing the collaboration and innovation taking place within dementia care and services across the county and discussing best practice.

With over 70 organisations represented, the VCFSE Somerset Dementia Partnership strengthens collaboration and develops new ways of working with colleagues in the statutory sector. Facilitated by Spark Somerset, they contribute to strategic discussions to improve dementia services and play a key role within the [Somerset Dementia Wellbeing Service](#).

Together, they help shape important areas such as hospital discharge, training and peer support, and work closely with health and social care professionals to review the dementia care pathway.

To find out more about the partnership and sign up to their newsletter, please visit [VCFSE Dementia Partnership Somerset | Community Collaboration](#)

Their next meeting is at Taunton Rugby Club, on 28 April 2026, 10.30am-2pm, with speakers from groups across the VCFSE, Health and Care sectors including [Compass Disability](#), [Home Instead Taunton](#) and [NHS Gloucester](#) will be giving an insight into integrated work they are doing. For more information and booking [here](#)

Training and Events



28th April 2026 12.30pm-1.30pm

Lunch and Learn: recruiting and retaining volunteers

This is for staff and volunteers from voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations only. In this online session you will look at what meaningful volunteer experiences look like and simple strategies that help volunteers feel valued, supported and motivated to continue.

Book [here](#)



28th April 2026, 6.30pm-8pm

Flooding and Planning webinar

Hosted by Flooded People UK, if representatives of your council would like join this, please contact Bel Deering, Somerset Rivers Authority Community Engagement Officer, on Bel.deering@somerset.gov.uk

Find out more about flooding support:

[Flooded People UK](#)

[Somerset Prepared – Helping Somerset prepare, respond and recover from emergencies](#)



3rd May 2026, 9am-12pm

Birds and Birdsong for Beginners walk

A fun and relaxed walk in Coleford where you'll get to know the basics of birdwatching and learn to recognise different birdsong.

Book [here](#)

Meet at Church Hall, Coleford

Crisis and Resilience Fund

Somerset Council has formed a three-year partnership with Citizens Advice Somerset, awarding them a contract to help and support residents using the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund.

The funding is designed to offer targeted help to people facing sudden financial difficulties. The support is provided in three ways: crisis payments, resilience services and community coordination.

As Alliance Lead, Citizens Advice Somerset will work with Somerset Council and other VCFSE partners such as Age UK Somerset, SASP, Somerset Community Foundation and Thrive, to deliver targeted support, strengthen community resilience, provide crisis intervention, and ensure access to wellbeing and financial assistance for vulnerable residents.

More information about all the support available can be found [on the Council's website](#), search 'cost of living support'. To apply for crisis payments only, visit Citizens Advice Somerset's [website](#).

There's also the Council's [#Help4All](#) scheme, [Community Hubs](#), the [Healthy Start – NHS – healthy food and milk](#) and [The Local Pantry Network in Somerset](#).

NHS Health Checks

Spring reset: a simple step towards a healthier you

The NHS Health Check is a national programme designed to assess the health of your heart and blood vessels (your cardiovascular health) and identify whether you may be at higher risk of developing serious conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke. For people aged over 65, the check also includes information on the early signs of dementia, as some risk factors overlap.

If you're aged 40 to 74, have no pre-diagnosed heart conditions, and have not had a check in the last five years, you can book your appointment at one of [Health Check locations](#), including

- SHAPE Offices, Shepton Mallet
- The Victoria Club, Street
- Glastonbury Library, Glastonbury
- Wells Library, Wells
- Colliers Court, Frome



You can book here:

[Health Check bookings](#)

To find out more please visit [NHS Health Checks website](#).

Training and Events



12th May 2026 10am-11am

Meet the Funder: Somerset Community Foundation

This is for staff and volunteers from voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations only. In this online session you will learn about SCF's current funding programmes and social investment opportunities, with a focus on funding for groups supporting older people.

Book [here](#)



19th May 2026, 9.30am-4.30pm

Somerset Food Champions Training

The course gives participants the tools to support colleagues, families, and local groups in making healthier food choices that actually fit into everyday life.

Book [here](#)

Council Chamber, Council Offices,
Shepton Mallet



19th May 2026 6pm-8pm

Cuppa with a Carer

The friendly team from Fostering in Somerset will be on hand to talk through the different types of fostering, what support and payments are available, how the application process works, and the training they provide.

Book [here](#)

Structural Maintenance 2026/27

The programme of highway works scheduled for delivery during the 2026/27 financial year.

These schemes form part of Somerset Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving the condition, safety, and resilience of the highway network.

Below is a table of the currently planned carriageway and footway resurfacing, drainage and earthworks in your Local Community Network (LCN) area. You can find more precise locations on our Public Information Portal ([PIP](#)) under the heading 'Capital Structural Maintenance Project'. Currently showing under 'Year 1' but from 1 April these will change to current year.

HSPR Ref	Work Type	Road Name	LCN	Parish
EW001026	Earthworks	Stone Lane	Shepton	Ston Easton
FW001066	Footway	Rectory Road	Shepton	Shepton Mallet
FW001067	Footway	Coles Gardens	Shepton	Kilmersdon
FW001068	Footway	Kilmersdon Hill	Shepton	Kilmersdon
NPR001055	Non-Principal Resurfacing	Kilmersden Hill to Frome Road	Shepton	Kilmersdon
NPR001056	Non-Principal Resurfacing	Fosse Road to Silver Street	Shepton	Stratton on the Fosse
NPR001059	Non-Principal Resurfacing	The Street	Shepton	Chilcompton
PR001026	Principal Resurfacing	Park Hill/Whitstone Hill	Shepton	Pilton
PR001027	Principal Resurfacing	A371 Wells Road / Long Street	Shepton	Shepton Mallet
DR001010	Drainage	Dallimore Lane	Shepton	Cranmore
DR005250	Drainage	A37 Old Frome Road to Underhill	Shepton	Ashwick
DR005249	Drainage	A366 Bath Road	Shepton	Ashwick
DR005262	Drainage	Abbots Way/St Marys	Shepton	Pilton

These works are currently intended for delivery within the 2026/27 financial year, though please note that delivery is not guaranteed within this period. There can be many factors that impede or delay delivery of works. These can include but not limited to network coordination, future planned works that need to be undertaken prior, weather, drainage consents, ecology concerns such as nesting season and badger setts, and other operational factors. Works can also be added as the need arises.

Please be aware that this notification is intended as advance notice. Where appropriate, separate notifications will be sent for potentially disruptive schemes. If a temporary road closure or similar legal order is required these notifications will be sent as normal. For the most up to date information on works in your area and nationwide, please see [One.network](#). This is a free, online service but you may need to register to view further than two weeks in advance. Works will show here when they have been programmed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either your local area team (highways-west@somerset.gov.uk or highways-east@somerset.gov.uk) or highwayprogramming@somerset.gov.uk.

Your local knowledge is always valued and helps us plan works in a way that minimises disruption wherever possible.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Chris Tucker
ECI Programme Manager
Somerset Council

Avon and Somerset Police

For Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Updates and regular updates on events/campaigns and what is happening in your area, please keep an eye on:

[Mendip Neighbourhood Policing | Facebook](#)

To contact your local team and for latest events please follow relevant links:

[Shepton Mallet Town | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Ashwick, Chilcompton, Croscombe, Shepton Mallet, Stratton-on-the-Fosse

Priority: anti-social behaviour

[Shepton Mallet Rural | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

East Pennard, Evercreech, Pilton, Pylle

Priorities: e-scooters and rural crime

[Frome Rural North | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Coleford, Holcombe, Kilmersdon, Leigh-on-Mendip, Stoke St Michael

Priorities: untaxed and uninsured vehicles in and around Rudge

[Frome Rural South | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Batcombe, Cranmore, Doultling, Downhead, Milton Clevedon

Priorities: community speedwatch; suspected abandoned, untaxed or uninsured vehicles

[Wells Rural | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Ston Easton

Priorities: poaching and fuel theft

Local information

- [**Neighbourhood Watch**](#)
- [**Police Stations**](#)
- [**StreetSafe - report feeling unsafe**](#)

Come and Chat with Your Neighbourhood Police Team

Got concerns, questions, or just fancy a friendly chat? Your local neighbourhood policing team will be available to talk about any issues or worries you may have — or simply pop by to say hello! We're here to listen, support, and connect with our community.

Frome Rural North NPT

1st May 2026, 10am-12pm

Stoke St Michael's Church

Tower Hill

Stoke St Michael

BA3 5GT

Frome Rural South NPT

29th April 2026, 10am-11am

Mells Cafe

Woodlands End

Mells

BA11 3PF

Shepton Mallet Town NPT

9th May 2026 10am-11.30am

Shepton Mallet Library

2 Market Place, Shepton Mallet

BA45AZ

Shepton Mallet Rural NPT

12th May 2026, 11:30am-12:30am

Pilton Skateboard Park

Pylle Road

Pilton

BA4 4DH

Wells Rural NPT

6th May 2026, 11am-12pm

This event is held every 4 weeks on Wednesday.

Wells Market Place

Market Place

Wells

BA5 2RA

Health Connections

Directory - Health Connections includes information on local groups and services in the community that could help you to improve your health and wellbeing. You can also see resources for each category containing useful links to other websites, booklets and organisations. If you can't find the support you are looking for, do give your local team a call and they will be happy to help.

You can search by area, category or topic using the boxes or type a key word into the search bar.

TALKING CAFES

Talking cafes are a place to meet new people, make friends and chat to a Health Connector about activities, support groups and services in your community.

For more information visit:

[Talking Cafes - Health Connections](#)

Latest dates provided - *please check for up-to-date information via the link above before attending.*

LCN themes, topics and speakers

After our April meeting, we will be deciding on new priorities at our AGM on 6 July 2026.

Please also consider which themes, topics and/or speakers you would like to see at our future meetings.

- Would you like to have time for networking at the start or the end of the meeting?
- Would you consider having some of the quarterly meetings during the day? This may provide more opportunities for some of our colleagues and partners to attend due to time capacity.
- Would you like to have a separate networking meeting with your neighbouring town and parishes to share projects or look at joint funding applications where an opportunity may arise.

This is your Local Community Network, and we'll do our best to accommodate your requests.

We are already working on a number of initiatives across parishes with support from partner organisations, and there are still so many more topics we can explore to support your communities through collaborative work. Please forward any suggestions and requests to sheptonlcn@somerset.gov.uk

Talking Cafes

Coleford

Monday 1pm – 2.30pm
The Hub, Old School, Church Street, Coleford BA3 5NQ

Evercreech

Thursday 2.30pm – 4pm
Evercreech Village Hall, Victoria Lane, Evercreech, Shepton Mallet BA4 6JP

Frome

Monday 10am – 11.30am
Cheese and Grain, Justice Lane, Frome BA11 1BE

Frome

Thursday 1pm – 2.30pm
Coffee#1, 15-16 Westway Centre, Frome BA11 1BS

Shepton Mallet

Wednesday 10am – 12pm
The Art Bank, 13 High St, Shepton Mallet BA4 5AD

Shepton Mallet Games Café

(aimed at people aged between 18-30 years old),
Fridays 1.30pm – 3pm
The Mind Hub
57c High Street, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5AQ

Street

Wednesday 10am – 12pm
Crispin Community Centre, Leigh Road, Street, BA16 0HA (*a community coffee morning in partnership with Crispin Community Centre*)

Wells

Friday 10am – 12pm
Portway Annexe, Wells BA5 2QF (*a community coffee morning in partnership with The Portway Annexe*)

GRANTS and FUNDING



Somerset
Rivers Authority

SRA Community Flood Action Fund grants

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) provides small grants for works to reduce flooding in Somerset. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 may be awarded.

The next deadline for applications is Tuesday 26 May 2026.

For 2026-27, up to £240,000 has been approved by the SRA Board. After 26 May, deadlines for applications are on a rolling three-months-later basis: Tuesday 25 August, Tuesday 24 November, and then in 2027, Tuesday 23 February.

Who can apply? You can apply if you are a not-for-profit organisation. For example, a town or parish council, a parish meeting, a charity, a social enterprise or a community benefit society.

What are grants given for? The SRA's aim is to help people with good local knowledge of flooding problems take practical actions with obvious benefits that can be achieved quite quickly.

Why? Because one of the main themes in the SRA's [Strategy 2024-34](#) is working with communities across Somerset to reduce the risks and impacts of flooding.

How do I apply for a grant? To apply for a Community Flood Action Fund grant, fill in this online application form. It's on a system hosted for the SRA by Somerset Council:

<https://service.somerset.gov.uk/somerset-rivers-authority-community-flood-action-fund>



SPARK
SOMERSET
Inspiring communities

Navigating the ever-changing funding landscape can be challenging, but you are not alone! Spark's experienced team is here to support you and your organisation.

[Funding - Spark Somerset](#)

[Funding available for community research - Spark Somerset](#)



Somerset
Community
Foundation

[Grants & Funding For Groups - Somerset Community Foundation](#)

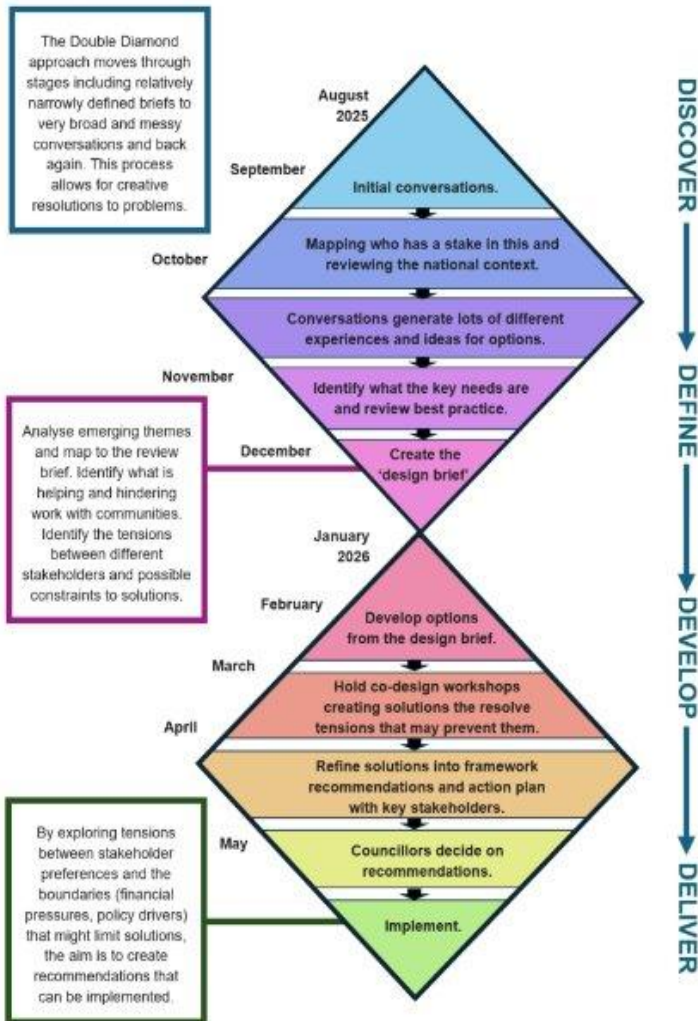
[Grants & Funding For Individuals - Somerset Community Foundation](#)



COMMUNITY
FUND

Funding for community projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future. Focussing on supporting people facing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination.

[Funding programmes | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)



Community Working Review

Citizen Network has been 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.

More Information



As LCN Link Officers, we receive a high number of press releases about all sorts of things across the Council. They may not always affect you personally but may be useful to your communities, friends and family. Rather than forward all of these on to you – and fill up your inbox very quickly, I will forward only urgent releases and those from partner organisations that may be relevant to your area and encourage you to subscribe at [Newsroom Sign-Up](#) for general news & updates from Somerset Council.

You can decide which press releases are of most interest, and receive them straight into your own inbox. Town and parish councils will also get regular updates from our colleague Emma.

However, if you'd prefer me to forward these to you, rather than signing up yourself, please let me know and I'll start a separate mailing list for you.



For more information on Shepton LCN, please contact Nataliya Wills, LCN Link Officer on sheptonlcn@somerset.gov.uk



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