

# **CLlr Peter Seib - Monthly SC Report**

## **March 2026**

### **Brympton ED – work on Potholes and other defects**

12 road defects and a landslip were fixed within Brympton ED in February, and we're seeing a slowing in the rate they appear. Some of our roads still have unreported potholes and other defects, if you see one use <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/#potholes-road-damage-and-edge-loss>.

Since January the council has received 16,332 defect reports (compared with 4,417 in the same period last year), which reflects a nationwide pattern. As of 20 Feb, 35 teams have fixed 4,577 potholes despite also dealing with roads which have been submerged.

Repairs are prioritised by severity and will be completed within 2 hours\*, 24 hours\*, 7 days or 28 days depending on the category. The most urgent\* (serious safety hazard) holes may be temporarily patched until a proper repair can be arranged. Temporary patches quickly degrade (we only need them to last a month), and although it seems counter-intuitive to deliberately do two visits, a proper fix often means closing the road, which is best done in a planned way, off-peak, whereas a patch is quick and traffic can be managed by the crew.

### **Signage in Thorne Coffin**

There has been an ongoing issue with motorcycles taking a short cut through the gate in Thorne Coffin. In consultation with both parishes, we are going to change the nature of the signage at the ends of the road and at the gate. There's not a lot more we can do though, as the route is popular with pedestrians and it would be unreasonable to expect the Police to constantly enforce the closure all day every day. If you do see offenders, please report their registration to the Police and take photos if you can do so safely. That lets the Police follow up with the registered keeper.

### **Planning approved for £15m Octagon Theatre transformation**

Works will improve the front-of-house, auditorium and rehearsal space, renew plant and infrastructure, add accessible toilets and a Changing Places facility, upgrade technical stage systems (including fly and backstage crossover), and introduce energy-efficiency measures.

Funding comprises £10m from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, £3.75m from Yeovil Town Council (loan and reserves) and contributions from neighbouring parishes and the balance (over £1.25m) comes from ticket levy income, fundraising and Section 106 contributions via Somerset Council. The tender process can now proceed and work is expected to start in the 2026/27 financial year.

### **Listening to You ... the Budget Consultation and Roads**

The frustration most reported in the Budget Consultation was the state of the roads so we've budgeted an extra £5m over 3 years to smarten roads, pavements and cycleways, increase drain and gully clearance, replace old signs and road markings, do more litter collection and vegetation clearance near walking/cycling routes. Improvements will also be made to the council's public reporting system, to make it even easier for residents to highlight any issues on the roads.

## Cllr Peter Seib - Monthly SC Report March 2026

During the Council's Financial Emergency the road maintenance programmes could only focus on safety critical works which meant lower priority issues like faded road markings, broken signs and overgrown hedges were a low priority which we did if we could.

### **Summer Hours at HWRCs**

The Yeovil Household Waste Recycling Centre will move to summer opening hours from Wednesday 1 April: from 9am to 4pm on weekends. Midweek, sites will be open from 9am to 6pm.

### **Kerbside Recycling update**

We've been pushing out messages to get people to recycle more of their food, rather than letting it go into the refuse, and it seems to be working. Together we recycled a massive 2,130 tonnes of food waste in December and a further 2,079 in January... that's 100 tonnes more than December 2024! All those peelings, scraps and leftovers stayed right here in Somerset, where they were transformed into nutrient-rich fertiliser and clean green energy. Keep it up!

### **Easter bank holiday collections**

The long Easter weekend on 3 to 6 April means your recycling and rubbish collections will be a day later. There won't be collections on Friday 3 April or Monday 6 April. Collections resume on Tuesday 7 April, and will be a day later all week.

### **Brympton ED to be abolished in 2027**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has announced the areas for the next SC elections. Brympton ED disappears and you will be in one of **Yeovil West** (Abbey Manor, Monk's Dale and a bit of Westfield), **Brympton and Preston** (Throne Coffin, Lufton, Alvington, Houndstone, Preston Road) or **Yeovil North West** (Chilthorne Domer, Fosse Way to Tintagel). The Parish of Brympton remains but is split into several wards. See the LGBCE map at <https://tinyurl.com/24obq7fs>

### **Govt SEND reform 'encouraging'**

Somerset Council welcomes the direction of the Government consultation, but warns that major challenges remain — rising independent placement costs, SEND transport pressures in rural areas, and the need for sufficient, fairly distributed funding during the transition.

Somerset plans 250+ new SEN unit places over 3 years to teach more children closer to home.

EHCP rebalancing: Govt aim to reserve EHCPs for those most in need and reduce costly EHCP maintenance. Somerset demand is up 47% in five years.

## **CLlr Peter Seib - Monthly SC Report March 2026**

Govt proposals also seek to rebalance tribunal powers and funding responsibilities; councils remain concerned about historic cost pressures.

Private placement costs: independent special school spending is rising (Somerset £7m over forecast) and some providers are show high profit margins.

SEND transport: an ongoing cost pressure for rural areas like Somerset (projected spend c. £15m this year).

Govt propose schools should carry more per-pupil costs, while councils continue to commission specialist services and curate local offers.

Govt proposals include staged change; Somerset stresses the announced investment must be sufficient and fairly allocated, and calls for financial bridging support during transition.

### **Somerset Council shortlisted for two LGC Awards**

Somerset Council has been shortlisted for two 2026 Local Government Chronicle Awards: Campaign of the Year for the '[Our Story](#)' fostering recruitment campaign, and the Diversity & Inclusion Award for 'Imagine the Possibilities', which supports young people with SEND into paid work.

The nominations recognise work to recruit and support foster carers and to expand Supported Internships (now 15 placements, supporting 100+ young people annually). Winners announced in June.

In 2026, more than 1,000 entries were submitted from councils across the country, making shortlisting a significant achievement.

### **Yeovil Library - World Book Day Costume Swap**

Families can donate and swap pre-loved World Book Day costumes from half term ahead of World Book Day on 5 March. Donate a clean, good-quality costume, browse the costume rail and take an outfit free of charge — no donation required.

# CLlr Peter Seib - Monthly SC Report

## March 2026

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

**Visit - Report a Problem on the Road:** - A list of all reporting pages to do with roads, pavements, lighting:  
[Report a problem on the road](#)

**Potholes and road damage** - Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:  
[Potholes, road damage and edge loss](#)

**Report a problem with a street light** - We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:  
[Report a problem with a street light](#)

**Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting** - Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or a new road sign:  
[Road signs, bollards and road markings](#)

**Speed limits** - Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:  
[Speed limits](#)

**Traffic lights** - We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the County:  
[Traffic lights](#)

**Street and roadworks** - We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset:  
[Street and roadworks problems](#)

**Traffic - updates and roadworks follow:**  
[Travel Somerset on X](#) and [Travel Somerset on Facebook](#).

**All ongoing roadworks** - available on the Somerset Council website interactive map  
[Roadworks and travel information](#)

**Somerset Waste** - collection days, replacement bins or recycling bags and missed collection reporting:  
[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

**Travel and Tourist Information**  
[Travel Somerset - Art, Culture, Events, History & More](#)

**Sign-up for the latest climate news from across Somerset:**  
[Climate newsletter sign-up](#)

**Open Somerset Council Consultations** - which anyone can complete and take part in shaping the future of Somerset  
[Somerset Council - Citizen Space - Consultations](#)

**SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224**