

# Peter Seib - Monthly Somerset Councillor Report

## May 2026

### Highways work - March

- 17 Potholes U5578/10 **CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- 5 Edge Loss repairs U5578/10 **CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- 2 Depression in c/way repairs U5578/10 **CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Pothole A37/410 **ILCHESTER ROAD - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Edge Loss repair U5478/20 **VAGG LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Broken Kerb repair U5574/10 **LITTLE SAMMONS - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Loose / Rocking Kerb U5574/10 **LITTLE SAMMONS - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Multiple CW Safety Defects U5578/10 **CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Debris in Carriageway removed T5485/45 **OLD ROAD - LUFTON**
- Pothole T5485/45 **OLD ROAD - LUFTON**
- Pothole U5569/10 **LUFTON LANE - LUFTON**
- Depression in c/way repair T8168/10 **LUFTON WAY**
- 8 Potholes T8168/10 **LUFTON WAY**
- Pothole T8520/150 **LUFTON WAY**
- Debris in Footway removed U8184/10 **STOURTON WAY**
- Pothole U8471/30 **ARTILLERY ROAD**
- Pothole U9459/10 **PRESTON ROAD**

### Highways work - April

- Jetting of mainline and Gulley **ILCHESTER ROAD ( A37/390 )** between **KINGS HILL & OAKLEY LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- 4 Potholes U5578/20 **SOCK FARM LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Debris in Carriageway cleared A37/410 **ILCHESTER ROAD - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Loose / Rocking Kerb U5574/10 **LITTLE SAMMONS - CHILTHORNE DOMER**
- Surface Dressing – **A37 ILCHESTER ROAD**
- Surface Dressing – **A3088 CARTGATE LINK**
- Surface Dressing – **A37 DORCHESTER ROAD**
- Surface Dressing – **A30 WEST COCKER**
- 4 Potholes T5485/45 **OLD ROAD - LUFTON**
- Pothole U5569/10 **LUFTON LANE - LUFTON**
- Pothole T5559/40 **THORNE LANE**
- Pothole T8165/30 **WESTERN AVENUE**
- Depression in c/way repair T8168/10 **LUFTON WAY**
- Damaged c/way Sett repair U8166/20 **WOODHENG**
- Pothole U8169/10 **MEAD AVENUE**
- Pothole U8184/10 **STOURTON WAY**
- Pothole U9458/10 **BOUNDARY ROAD**
- Broken Channel Block repair U9516/20 **HAWKS RISE**

### Highways work – Ongoing

- Silted pipe at Lufton Lane – awaiting enforcement (watercourse dammed by resident)
- Surface dressing – e.g. A37 Dorchester Road, A30 East Chinnock

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### Ambitious new plans for council houses

The [Social Housing Development Strategy](#), provides guidance and structure for the housing development programme of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The aim is to deliver 580 new council homes by March 2031, with a spotlight on affordability, sustainability and meeting the needs of Somerset's diverse communities.

While addressing the challenge of expanding council housing into new areas of the county, including rural sites with their own specific needs, it also outlines tackling complex housing needs and displaced people. [Schemes already completed](#) under this plan include Minehead's Rainbow Way Development, Taunton's Lavinia House scheme, and others currently in development include Penlea in Bridgwater and North Woolaway in Taunton. This is in addition to other Affordable Housing delivery.

### Have Your Say on Somerset's SEND Reform Plan

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across Somerset are being urged to share their views as part of a [consultation on the Government's SEND Reform Plan](#). Somerset Council must submit its local SEND Reform Plan by 19 June. Young people with SEND can take part via the [SEND Reform Plan Survey](#), with responses needed by **Friday 15 May 2026**.

### Nominations Open for Celebrating Care and Achievement 2026

Somerset Council is inviting nominations for its Celebrating Care and Achievement event on Thursday 30 July 2026. The event has been renamed and expanded so that all care-experienced children and young people across the county can attend for the first time. Nominations close **Friday 29 May 2026**.

Nominate a child/young person: [forms.cloud.microsoft/e/pRs2ZVuGWC](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/pRs2ZVuGWC)

Nominate an adult: [forms.cloud.microsoft/e/wjZGyQR0uC](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/wjZGyQR0uC)

### 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 pre-existing heart conditions, assess cardiovascular health and risk of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Appointments are available at libraries and community venues across the county including Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Wellington, Minehead, Porlock, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Street, Highbridge, Wells and Wincanton. [Book your appointment here](#).

For full article see: [somerset.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-leads-from-the-front-with-nhs-health-check/](https://somerset.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-leads-from-the-front-with-nhs-health-check/)

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### **New Tobacco Law Prompts Call for Somerset Smokers to Quit**

The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 has received Royal Assent, introducing a generational ban on tobacco sales to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, along with restrictions on vape advertising and a retail licensing scheme. Somerset's public health leaders are using the milestone to urge the county's 60,000 smokers to quit, with free support available through Smokefree Somerset.

#### **Free help to quit smoking:**

Website: [smokefreesomerset.org.uk](https://smokefreesomerset.org.uk) | Phone: 01823 356222 (9am–5pm) | Email: [smokefree@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:smokefree@somerset.gov.uk) Free app: [Apple App Store](#) and [Google Play](#)

### **Somerset's Social Care Challenge: How the Council is Responding**

Somerset Council's Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Housing, Councillor Sarah Wakefield, appeared on BBC Somerset to address questions from residents about the growing pressures on social care in the county. With Somerset having one of the oldest populations in the country, demand for adult social care is rising. She outlined steps including working more closely with the NHS and voluntary sector, investing in technology to help people live independently for longer, and incorporating AI to save time. Listen at: [bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002vc94](https://bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002vc94) (available for 24 days from 29 April).

### **England's Chief Medical Officer Visits Somerset to Study Rural Health**

Professor Sir Chris Whitty, England's Chief Medical Officer, visited Glastonbury in March as part of his research into health in small towns and rural communities, which will inform his next Annual Report. During the day he saw Somerset's community health initiatives at first hand, including food pantries, early years support, library-based NHS health checks, and services supporting people experiencing homelessness and substance use. He praised the work of public health, NHS and council partners in the county.

### **£22 Million Fund to Help Somerset Residents Through Financial Crisis**

Somerset Council has received £22.6 million from the Government over three years to support residents facing financial hardship. Citizens Advice Somerset has been appointed to lead the scheme, working alongside partners including Age UK Somerset and Somerset Community Foundation to provide crisis payments, debt advice, budgeting support and employment guidance. Residents can apply via [citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk](https://citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk) or by calling 0808 278 7842.

Residents across Somerset who are feeling the financial squeeze can access a range of free local support — from food pantries and help with heating bills to mental health advice and assistance with rent and everyday essentials. Full details at: [somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](https://somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)

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### **Record 99% of Somerset Children Get Primary School of Their Choice**

Somerset Council has announced that 99.43% of the 4,938 families who applied for a primary school place this year were offered one of their top three preferences — a record high. Of those, 95.38% received their first-choice school. Children will begin at their new schools in September 2026.

### **Somerset Pupil Referral Units Reorganised to Improve Consistency**

Somerset's four Pupil Referral Units — which provide education for children unable to attend mainstream school — have been consolidated into two. From April 2026, the western unit is now called Willow Vale School and the eastern unit retains the name **Tor School**. Two behaviour partnerships in Frome and West Somerset will be fully integrated into the new structure by September 2026. The council says there will be no changes to funding or existing sites.

### **Youth Parliament Members Meet Council Chair at County Hall**

Members of the Somerset Youth Parliament visited County Hall in Taunton in April to meet Council Chair Cllr Mike Best and discuss how young people can play a greater role in local democracy. The three members — Eva, Blake and Luca — outlined their campaign priorities, including mental health, online safety, access to sport, and financial literacy. The meeting is hoped to mark the start of an ongoing relationship between the council and Somerset Youth Parliament.

### **Somerset Conference of Trees — Friday 12 June, Orchard Park Farm, Hornblotton**

A unique gathering of foresters, tree spiritualists and woodland enthusiasts is coming to Somerset this summer, bringing together some of the most influential forest thinkers of our time. The Somerset Conference of Trees takes place on Friday 12 June at Orchard Park Farm, Hornblotton, near Shepton Mallet, running from 9.15am to 4.30pm. Whether you are a professional forester, a passionate woodland walker or simply someone who loves trees, the conference offers a rare opportunity to connect with like-minded people in a beautiful outdoor setting. [Book your place here.](#)

### **A30 Hendford Hill to Reopen by End of May**

The A30 at Hendford Hill in Yeovil is set to reopen fully by the end of May, following damage caused by Storm Chandra earlier this year. The road has been operating northbound only after a bank slippage and fallen trees made it unsafe. Somerset Council's Highways Team has carried out initial repairs and a geological assessment, with major vegetation clearance and debris removal now underway. Concrete barriers will then be installed at the base of the slope before both lanes can reopen.

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### Wessex Water Fined Over Somerset Roadworks Breaches

Wessex Water has been ordered to pay over £13,000 by Taunton Magistrates after admitting two offences relating to street works on the A38 at North Petherton in July 2025. The company failed to put adequate safety measures in place and excavated the road when its permit only covered the footpath. The fine took into account previous convictions dating back to 2018. [More on this story here.](#)

### 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:  
[Report a problem with a street light](#)

**Road signs, markings and lighting** - Includes bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or 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 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**