

Peter Seib - Somerset Councillor Report

July 2026

Brympton ED Highways (May)

Street	Repair Type	Quantity	Reference
ARLINGTON CLOSE	Loose / Rocking Kerb	1	U8450140/
ARTILLERY ROAD	Pothole	1	U8471/10
CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Pothole	2	U557810/
CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Pothole	2	U558110/
CHILTHORNE HILL - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Edge Loss	2	U5581/10
CHURCH LANE LUFTON	Pothole	2	U5569/20
COPSE ROAD	Pothole	1	T816710/
LUFTON LANE - LUFTON	Pothole	1	U556910/
MEAD AVENUE	Broken Grate\ Frame	1	U816910/
OAKLEY LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Edge Loss	2	U558410/
OLD ROAD	Pothole	1	T5485/45
SOCK FARM LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Pothole	2	U5578/20
STOURTON WAY	Pothole	2	U818410/
TINTINHULL ROAD - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Edge Loss	1	T5592/30
TINTINHULL ROAD - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Vegetation	1	T5592/30
VAGG LANE - CHILTHORNE DOMER	Edge Loss	2	U5478/20

Unauthorised Encampment - Oak Tree Park

This incident started with an attack using cutting tools on the security post, and thanks to a timely call from a neighbour, I was on site before the third caravan entered. Police were in attendance almost immediately. With residents attempting to physically intervene, an immediate concern was violence (diverting resource from an accidental incursion at the school's summer fete, next door). Unlike previous incidents, and supported by our MP, an early decision was made to use police powers (with SC progressing civil action in parallel). With Support Units fully committed to the St Paul's Carnival in Bristol, the Police notice was actually served on Sunday, when adequate local resources were available to do so safely. The site was clear on Monday and rectification work completed immediately with community help. Thanks to all involved.

Lessons have been learned (hopefully on both sides) and SC will now consider how best to proceed. It is nearly impossible to prevent a determined incursion, all landowners can do is cause sufficient delay to allowing for the police response to happen before the site has been entered, frustrating entry. I have provided Council officers with the latest NPSA guidance from the "FARM" research, and with examples of physical caravan defences used elsewhere.

The key issue driving these incursions is the unavailability of suitable Traveller Transit sites. The also allow the police to use their powers because there is somewhere to move encampments on to.

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Please take part in the present Local Plan Consultation (below) and call for sufficient transit sites to be provided. We need a strong community call on this.

What do you think Somerset should look like in the future?

Somerset Council has launched a five-week Scoping Consultation (Regulation 20) on the Somerset Local Plan 2045, running from 19 June to 24 July 2026. Residents and businesses are invited to share views on what the plan should cover, the vision and outcomes for Somerset, and options for where development could be located across towns, villages and countryside over the next 20 years. At this stage the consultation covers the scope of the plan, an engagement plan, a spatial strategy with options for where development could go, and a sustainability appraisal of those options — but no specific sites are proposed yet. Have your say at somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com.

Help shape Somerset's future: have your say on council priorities

Somerset Council has launched its Summer Budget Consultation for 2027/28, asking residents what they value most to help guide future spending decisions. The council has saved £135m since 2023 but continues to face rising demand for services. The consultation closes 27 July — residents can respond at somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com.

More Awards for Somerset IPG

Somerset Council's Infrastructure Programmes Group (IPG), AECOM and Heidelberg Materials took the top prize at the NEC Contracts Annual Awards 2026 for the M5 Junction 26 Chelston Link project, beating international competition that included a £5bn highway project in Hong Kong and the UK's first all-electric prison. The M5 J26 project had already been successful at the Decarbonising Transport Awards and at the CIHT South West Awards for its sustainability credentials.

In the same week, the IPG was also commended in the 'Team of the Year' category at the CIHT Awards 2026. Since 2015 the IPG has delivered over £110 million of strategic highway infrastructure for Somerset.

£50m flood resilience fund

Somerset Council has been awarded £50m from DEFRA to invest in flood resilience and prevention, following Floods Minister Emma Hardy's visit to Somerset — at the invitation of Lib Dem MP Sarah Dyke — during the major incident declared after Storm Chandra earlier this year. The funding will support a two-year programme covering engineering improvements, natural flood management, property-level protection and community engagement. Council Leader Bill Revans welcomed the announcement, saying "this is a fantastic opportunity and we know our communities will want to input into the programme to ensure we are taking full advantage of the funding."

Council Tax and Benefits system upgrade

Somerset Council is in the final stages of merging its legacy district Council Tax, Benefits and Business Rates systems into one. The system has been unavailable since 25 June, with the exact return date subject to progress. Housing benefit payments and direct debits are continuing as normal, and online payments remain available, but most online forms and the new customer portal are offline until the upgrade is complete. [Further information is available here](#).

The World Cup: No excuse for domestic abuse

Somerset Council and partners across Avon and Somerset are urging residents to stay alert to the signs of domestic abuse during the World Cup, when heightened emotions and increased alcohol use are linked to a rise in incidents nationally. Partners stress that football is not the cause — abuse is

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caused solely by the behaviour of the perpetrator. Domestic abuse accounts for around 20% of police work in Avon and Somerset. Anyone experiencing abuse, or concerned about someone else, can contact the Somerset Domestic Abuse Service confidentially on 0800 694 9999 or at somersestdomesticabuse.org.uk. Support is also available for perpetrators who want to change their behaviour.

Somerset Council backs gambling harm campaign

Somerset Council is supporting the national "Odds Are They Win" campaign, which aims to raise awareness of gambling harm during this summer's international football tournament and challenge the stigma that prevents people seeking help. Free support is available through the South West Gambling Service on 0330 022 3175.

Somerset projects celebrated with awards

Two Somerset Council projects won recognition at the CPRE Somerset Love Your Countryside Awards: the Ham Hill Country Park heritage programme — delivering new trails, an accessible visitor centre and improved biodiversity — and the Rainbow Way development in Minehead, which delivered 54 new energy-efficient council homes, the first in a generation.

High-flying businesses land drone skills training

Somerset Council's Local Growth Deal funded a free 10-week Skills Bootcamp in Drone Use, delivered by Yeovil College and iProSurv, giving businesses across the county hands-on drone flying experience and CAA certification, with applications spanning construction, agriculture, surveying and public services.

2026 Somerset Children's Parliament competition

Primary schools from across Somerset came together for this year's Children's Parliament competition, organised by Somerset Council's ITT and Training team and Somerset Youth Parliament, giving pupils a platform to develop confidence, presentation and oracy skills while having their voices heard by local councillors and community leaders. Winners included St George's Catholic School, Taunton (celebrating diversity) and Parkfield Primary School, Taunton (health and wellbeing), with runners-up from Leigh on Mendip and Ashcott Primary. Schools interested in taking part next year can contact SCIL@somerset.gov.uk.

Somerset Council responds to Children's Services Ofsted report

Ofsted rated Somerset Children's Services as 'requires improvement' across three of four themes, with a 'good' rating for support to care leavers. Inspectors praised the dedication of staff and positive outcomes for children in foster care, but noted that some children don't receive support quickly enough and too many live in care homes rather than with foster families. The council has committed to expanding foster carer recruitment and strengthening multi-agency working to address the findings.

Young storytellers invited to turn food recycling into a winning tale

Children aged 4 to 11 are invited to write a short story (up to 500 words) on the theme of food recycling for a chance to win book vouchers, with a £200 school prize also on offer. Entries can be emailed to recycle@somerset.gov.uk or dropped at any Somerset library by 14 September 2026.

Celebrating Refugee Week

Somerset Council marked Refugee Week 2026 (15–21 June) by celebrating the contributions of displaced people in Somerset's communities, with the Displaced People Service attending libraries

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and community venues across the county. The service supports refugees and asylum seekers with housing, education, employment and integration, helping families feel safe and able to live independently.

Non-black plastic plant pots now recyclable from home

Under the new national Simpler Recycling regulations, non-black plastic plant pots can now go in Somerset's Bright Blue Bag — clean and empty. Black plant pots remain unrecyclable due to their pigment not being recognised by sorting machines, and should continue to go in the rubbish bin or be reused.

Somerset Council responds to Care Quality Commission report

The CQC rated Somerset's adult social care as 'requires improvement' following an assessment in September 2025, with concerns about the timeliness of assessments and reviews, support for unpaid carers, and use of data. However, inspectors also noted positive innovation, including Somerset's use of village and community leaders as trusted local contacts and good provision for people in rural areas. The council says significant progress has already been made since the assessment, including a new 24-hour self-service tool for carers and an oversight group to prioritise assessments.

Somerset Council sets out next steps in SEND reform

Somerset Council submitted its SEND Reform Plan to the Department for Education in June, setting out how schools, health services and care providers will work together to deliver earlier, more inclusive support for children with SEND. If approved by the DfE, up to 90% of Somerset's historic Dedicated Schools Grant deficit could be written off, putting local SEND services on a more sustainable financial footing.

Somerset Council to invest £5.3m to improve SEND support and reduce delays for families

Somerset Council consulted on proposals to expand specialist SEN provision across four schools — Hindhayes Infant School in Street, Holway Park Primary in Taunton, Oaklands Primary in Yeovil, and Polden Bower School in Bridgwater — creating new units, extra classrooms and more specialist places to help children stay in their local communities. [The consultation closes on 10 July.](#)

SC Executive approved £5.331m over two years to increase SEND capacity, clear assessment backlogs, improve the timeliness of EHCPs, and expand Preparation for Adulthood support. Somerset currently has 6,578 children with EHCPs — up from 2.6% of pupils in 2019/20 to 5.8% today. Funding will be drawn from the Business Risk Reserve and used for additional Educational Psychologists, SEND officers, and temporary staffing, with progress monitored in stages.

Somerset programme supporting young people with SEND wins prestigious national award

Imagine the Possibilities — Somerset's supported internship programme for young people with SEND — won silver in the Diversity and Inclusion category at the 2026 LGC Awards, having grown from a single placement to 15 programmes across Somerset supporting more than 100 young people each year into paid employment.

Somerset partnership wins national teaching award on Thank a Teacher Day

The Imagine the Possibilities partnership with Somerset schools and colleges — supporting young people with SEND to explore careers and build confidence — has won a Silver Pearson National Teaching Award in the School or College Partnership of the Year category, with the award presented

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at Fiveways School. The partnership is now in the running for a Gold Award, to be announced at a national ceremony in London and on BBC One's The One Show later this year.

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