

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter July 2023

Update on the new Coleford Allotments

It's wonderful to see the allotments up and running. Each time I visit there is another plot created and other plots become more established each week. To date, there are 22 plots already allocated, 8 people expected to pay imminently, a further 15 who have expressed an interest and 5 on the waiting list from outside of the parish.

It has been agreed that up to a maximum of 10 plots could be allocated to non-Coleford residents. These will not be promoted until after the 1st of September to allow all those living in Coleford the opportunity to take on a plot as a priority. If you want to know more about the allotments, please take a look at the parish website www.colefordpc.org.uk.



Highways

The following issues have been reported to Somerset Highways for action:

- Charlton Rd/Charmborough Lane junction - loose stones reported and cleared
- Stoke Bottom - obliterated markings and signage at end of Green Lane reported and restored
- Dark Lane - pothole and subsidence
- Leigh on Mendip, Quarry Lane - Kilmersdon cyclist hit pothole and broke his arm, reported and repaired (pothole that is, arm still in sling)
- Whitehole Lane - edge erosion opposite Ham junction
- Ham - potholes along utility works
- Stockhill - dropped manhole covers
- Church St - dropped drain below Douglas Yates Court – have been marked up
- Vobster Cross - vegetation severely reducing visibility
- Lipyeate House defects- frustration of the Parish Council at no action recorded
- 20mph School signage - concern registered regarding location of signs

The Parish Council is compiling a list of accidents that have occurred within the parish to help bolster our call for action from Somerset Highways to make our parish roads safer. If you or someone you know is involved in an accident, please can you let us know by emailing clerk@colefordpc.org.uk. Your personal data will not be shared without your consent.

Social Media



Facebook is a wonderful medium for spreading news to the masses quickly. However, the Parish Council wants to make it clear that it is not the role of the Parish Clerk to answer detailed questions asked on Facebook. If you have a question for the Parish Council then this should be done by email / letter clerk@colefordpc.org.uk, which will then be considered at the next Parish Council meeting or in person at one of the monthly meetings. Dates for the Council meetings are on the parish website and members of the Parish are always warmly welcomed.

Somerset Council report

Somerset Cllr Ham gave the following report:

Customer Access Points: Customers who need in-person help or advice from Somerset Council will find support at all Somerset Libraries. From July, they will be able to set up virtual, face-to-face meetings on the spot so people can speak directly to a member of the Customer Service team. Customer Access Points were initially set up in seven libraries in April when Somerset Council, now after a successful trial, it is being extended to all Somerset's libraries. The support will be provided during library opening hours, which, in most cases, includes weekends.

Surface dressing programme: The Highways team have started to surface dress some roads as part of the summer maintenance programme. Surface dressing is a recognised maintenance technique for sealing a road, improving skid resistance, and preventing water getting under the surface. The work can only be carried out in dry weather, so the Council's surface dressing programme is flexible, and dates can change at short notice. You can check which roads are being surface dressed here: www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/.

Eel recovery project: Endangered eels are getting a helping hand at Chard Reservoir Local Nature Reserve. The Council's Countryside team is working with the Environment Agency (EA) to help increase nationally declining numbers of European Eels (*Anguilla Anguilla*). European eels are critically endangered due to overfishing, disease, and the blocking of waterways with dams and weirs, preventing them from completing their migration and breeding cycle. In May this year an extra 8,000 glass eels were released into the reservoir – these will develop into juvenile eels known as elvers and once mature will begin their journey to the Caribbean to spawn. To aid this, the Council's team will also install eel passes on spillways of the dam to support their movement out to the Bristol Channel.

Summer reading challenge: Youngsters aged 4-11 can join the Summer Reading Challenge by visiting Somerset Libraries. The Challenge themed around the power of play, sport, games, and physical activity offers free materials from Somerset Libraries and online via the Challenge website. The characters – brought to life by children's author and illustrator Loretta Schauer – navigate a fictional summer obstacle course and track their reading as they go, rewarded by free incentives including stickers.

National award for Children's Services: Somerset Council is celebrating after winning a prestigious Award for a partnership project delivering children's homes across the county. The Council and its partners – care providers Homes2Inspire (part of national charity, Shaw Trust) and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust – won the 'Innovation in Partnerships' category for their trailblazing Homes and Horizons project. The project, which was developed and introduced under the previous Conservative administration is delivering 10 family-sized homes for children as part of a new model of care for Somerset's most vulnerable young people. It will also provide 20 specialist foster carers and a brand-new, therapeutic education service on two sites within the county, designed to increase young people's life chances through better educational results and improved mental health and wellbeing.

Date of Next Meetings:

26th July 2023 @ 7pm Planning meeting

9th August 2023 @ 7pm Parish Council meeting

23rd August 2023 @ 7pm Planning meeting

