

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for August 2024

PCSO



PCSO Mortimer will be hosting the Coleford drop-in sessions at the Hub on Church Street on the following date:

2nd September
30th September
28th October

25th November
23rd December

Climate Action Group

The group are keen to do more to promote Retrofit within the village. It was confirmed that on the 9th September there will be a presentation on Exploring the Eco Together Framework which will give an introduction into Adaptation, showing ways that the village can work towards being carbon zero. The event will be promoted via social media and on the parish notice boards for residents to attend.

Planning Applications

2024/1278/HSE - Single storey rear extension. 4 Mendip View, Highbury Street, Coleford.

Coleford Parish Council voted that the application should be refused on the basis that the extension is overbearing and restricts light into the neighbour's kitchen.

Somerset Council Planning office are yet to make their decision.

2024/1301/HSE - Construction of single storey extension with pitched ultra roof. Green Acres, Lipyeate, Coleford.

Coleford Parish Council voted that the application should be accepted on the basis that there were no planning reasons to refuse.

Somerset Council Planning office are yet to make their decision.



2024/1299/VRC - Application to vary condition 19 (Use Class) and to remove conditions 10 (Acoustic Mitigation) and condition 17 (Occupancy) on consent 107987/022 (Conversion of outbuildings to form dwelling with studio (DEL) and doors. Page House Farm, Tinkers Lane, Newbury

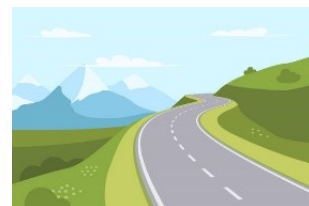
Coleford Parish Council voted that the decision should be left to the planning officer providing, he satisfies himself that there will be no adverse effect on highway safety or impacts on the listed building. The Parish Council notes that the original permission for Page Barn related solely to 'Image Consultant Studio' and no other purposes within the use of Class B1A – Office use. The Parish Council understand that there is a new classification Class E now in place. They would wish to be satisfied that this will not widen the scope of use to make it unacceptable in this location.

Somerset Council Planning office are yet to make their decision.

Highways

The following report was received:

- Stockhill - Good to see the extensive edge erosion in two locations made up after many requests, also a couple of potholes filled.
- Lipyeate Cross – disappointing that work has not started despite the notification of road closure. To be chased.
- Charmborough Lane – The edge markers have disappeared at Craddock’s Bottom and wheel marks suggest a vehicle was very close to going over the edge. Replacements to be requested.
- Beacon Cross - out of our Parish but yet another serious crash. This junction has for decades been a great concern to those of us who frequently use this route to Wells or Shepton. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the Highways department to raise the priority of a major improvement scheme here such as a roundabout noting the expensive improvements currently in progress at the much lesser used junction by the old Miners Arms near Priddy.
- Dark Lane – note of thanks sent to Highways for the works carried out.



Somerset Council

Somerset Cllr Ham and Cllr Clarke circulated the following report:

Asset disposals: A report recommending the disposal of several Somerset Council assets to generate funds and help bridge an £80m funding gap in the current financial year and a £100m budget gap for 2025/2026 will be considered by the Councils Executive on 7 August. The report outlines proposals to dispose of a number of non-operational buildings and small parcels of land which hold development potential and also several high-profile assets including the Market House in Taunton, The Cornhill in Bridgwater, Land at Evercreech, Yeovil Small Business Centre, C Block - County Hall, Boden Mill Chard and St Mary’s St Car Park in Taunton. The proposed sites have a combined estimated capital receipt range of £17m to £21m. However, information relating to individual asset disposals will remain commercially confidential.

Reduction in Council Tax support: Somerset residents are being encouraged to have their say on possible changes to a scheme which offers financial support to working age adults on low incomes. In November 2023, Somerset Council declared a financial emergency and agreed to several actions to reduce spending. This included a commitment to consult with the public on potential changes to the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme. Council Tax Reduction is a discount offered for Council Taxpayers on low incomes. The proposed changes would only apply to working age adults – the support provided for pensioners would not be affected. It was initially proposed to consult on changes that could potentially save Somerset Council £6.4m a year. The options for consideration include reducing the maximum available discount from 100% to 75%. More information can be found at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/ctr/> The consultation runs until 1 October, with any changes coming into effect from 1 April 2025.

Taunton Transport Hub: Taunton’s former bus station site could be re-developed as a transport interchange under new proposals. The hub is part of Somerset’s Bus Service Improvement plan and will offer a range of modern and sustainable transport options, including bus, coach, and bike parking. The project is funded by ring-fenced Government money. Residents can find out more and take part in the survey [her](#)

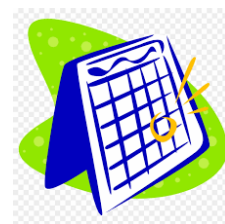
<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/taunton-transport-hub/> The online engagement runs from 23 July to 17 September.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection - Serious Youth Violence: Between 20th and 24th May 2024, the Care Quality Commission, His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, Ofsted and His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Probation jointly inspected the Somerset area’s multi-agency response to children over 10, who are at risk of, or affected by, serious youth violence in the county. The inspection found that partnership working between organisations is not effective in identifying, understanding or responding to the extent of serious youth violence and criminal exploitation of children in Somerset. The oversight of partnership working, led by the Safer Somerset Partnership and the Somerset Safeguarding Children’s Partnership lacks rigour, drive and challenge. Serious weaknesses in practice across organisations has meant that risks are not identified at the earliest opportunity. These issues were accepted by both partnerships during the inspection process and work began immediately to plan a more impactful approach. Improvement plans will be submitted to Ofsted by Safeguarding Children’s Partnership, by 25th October 2024.

E Scooter trials halted: E-scooter services in three Somerset towns have been suspended with immediate effect by the operator. Mobility e-scooter trials in Taunton, Minehead and Yeovil, which have run since 2020, have been halted by the operator due to an unexpected supplier issue. The trials were due to continue until the end of May 2026 but whilst the service is suspended the scooters are being removed from town centres and users have been messaged. The initiative is a collaboration between DfT, Somerset Council and Zipp Mobility in Taunton and Minehead, with operator Zwings running the trial in Yeovil. (Zwings has now been amalgamated with Zipp Mobility).

Somerset Coast Festival: The Somerset and Exmoor Coastal Festival scheduled for September 21 to 29, is organised by the King Charles III England Coast Path team based at Somerset Council. As well as the 80 Miles in Eight Days walking challenge – starting at Brean Down and ending in Porlock via County Gate – this year’s festival will include trail running events with a Marathon and a 100km Ultra Marathon on the penultimate day, September 28. Both trail running distances will finish with a lap of Brean Down, the 100km starting in Minehead and the marathon starting in Bridgwater. Among the highlights of this year’s event are a Fuse Fire and Light Trail in Bridgwater at the start on September 21 and an evening of shanty songs at Sparkhayes Campsite in Porlock on September 29, followed by a free Fire and Light night walk on Porlock Marshes to finish. Visit <https://somersetcoastfestival.co.uk> for more information.

Government funded childcare for September: The Department for Education (DfE) is reminding eligible working parents in England making childcare arrangements for September 2024 that they need to apply by 31 August for the 15 hours childcare for their child aged 9 months old and 30 hours childcare for their 3 or 4 year old. Parents should visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working> to get their code and then share it with their childcare provider.



Date of Next Meetings:

11 th September 2024	Parish Council meeting
25 th September 2024	Planning meeting
9 th October 2024	Parish Council meeting

If you have any issues that you would like to bring to the Parish Council’s attention, please contact the Clerk on 07971 516916 or email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk Check out the website www.colefordpc.org.uk