

Parish Council of Coleford

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Newsletter for October 2024

Make a change and become a Councillor.

We were sad to see Cllr Adam Drescher and Cllr Amy West step down from their roles in the last month. Both have given up their free time to fulfil the role and we are particularly grateful to Adam for all the work he has done at the allotments in particular designing and installing the water pumping system – we are extremely grateful.

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward. For further information please contact the Clerk on clerk@colefordpc.org.uk



Police report

The crime report for Coleford showed that during the last month there had been 1 case of arson and criminal damage and 1 case of violence against the person. If you wish to discuss any concerns you might have with our PCSO's then they will be hosting a drop-in session at the Hub on 28th October 2024 from 10am until 11am. No need to make an appointment, just turn up.

Highways

The following issues have been reported to Somerset Highways:

- Highbury St - pothole just below Eagle by new house
- Beacon View - Loose kerbstone
- Dark Lane - safety implications as a diversion when Vobster closed
- Mells - pothole on left coming west off straight just above crossroads
- Kings Head bridge - stuck HGV, safety inspection of bridge requested



Speed Watch



We have regular reports of speeding throughout the village and the Parish Council is keen to gather data to back up this claim. One of the ways to do this is via speed watch. We have the equipment but really need more volunteers to help hold regular sessions. Could you spare an hour every couple of weeks to help? No experience required as training will be provided. Please email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Allotments

We currently have both full and half plots available at the new allotments located next to Vobster Quay Diving centre. Further information about the allotments is available on the Coleford Parish Council website [Coleford Allotments \(colefordpc.org.uk\)](http://Coleford Allotments (colefordpc.org.uk))

To register an interest please email clerk@colefordpc.org.uk

Would you benefit from a warm space this winter?



The Parish Council are trying to establish if there is a need for a community warm space to be available during this coming winter. Last year we opened The Hub on Church Street on a Monday and those that attended enjoyed hot drinks and biscuits whilst playing board games, reading and chatting to others that were present. If this was to be repeated, would you or someone you know be likely to come along? Please do contact the Clerk on clerk@colefordpc.org.uk or call 07971 516916.

Christmas is coming!

The Parish Council is excited to be providing a Christmas tree and lights this year for the Royal British Legion. The tree will be erected on the lawn and an event will be held on Saturday 30th November to bring some Christmas cheer to the village.



Somerset Council

Cllr Ham reported:

- Winter Fuel payment – Somerset Councillors have written to Government asking that they reconsider stopping the winter fuel payment
- There is currently a leadership campaign for the Conservative party and also for a leader at Somerset Council
- Cllr Ham and Cllr Clarke have written a strongly worded letter to the Chief Executive of Somerset Council complaining about the inefficiencies of the Planning department. They have been invited to attend a meeting to discuss their concerns.
- All local quarries have held their liaison meetings over the last few weeks.
- Porr have pulled out of the project due to take place at Leighton where they were going to make the concrete products for the HS2 project.



Devolution proposals: In response to a request from government, Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire Councils have submitted an expression of interest in devolution, seeking to unlock greater powers and resources for the area. The submission for devolution represents a step towards addressing local aspirations aligning with the Government's devolution agenda.

All three councils have stressed that they remain open to amending their expressions of interest as further details of the English Devolution Bill emerge and will continue their own discussions with other councils across the region.

Recycling centre winter opening times: From Tuesday, 1 October all 16 of Somerset Council's recycling sites will revert to their autumn/winter opening schedule. Sites will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 4pm at the weekend. Opening days vary across all sites midweek, however all sites are open on a Saturday and Sunday. There are queue cameras at Bridgwater (Saltlands), Chard, Highbridge, Minehead, Street, Taunton (Priorswood), Wellington (Poole), Wells (Dulcote), and Yeovil accessed via <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/recycling-site-queue-cams/>

School places: Somerset parents and carers of children due to start school or move on to their next school in September 2025 are being urged to apply for their place online and on time. Parents and carers of children due to transfer to Secondary or Upper School can apply for places for their children until 31 October 2024. Please visit: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/starting-at-a-secondary-or-upper-school-in-september/> Parents and carers of children due to start school for the first time or transfer to Junior or Middle School can apply for places for their children from 30 September 2024 until 15 January 2025. Please visit: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time/>

Parking text scams: Fraudulent text messages about unpaid parking fines have been sent to some Somerset residents. The council are therefore reminding the public that the council does not text

residents with parking fines (PCN). If you receive one of these texts, it is not from Somerset Council and may be a scam. If anyone is unsure if the text is real, they should contact the Council. In addition suspicious text messages should be forwarded to 7726. This free-of-charge short code enables your provider to investigate the text.

Winter Coat Exchange: Somerset's Libraries service is relaunching its Winter Coat Exchange scheme, designed to support the community by providing access to warm coats for everyone in need. As children settle into the new school year, a 'Back to School' appeal has been launched for children's/teen coats that may have been outgrown, but the scheme welcomes donations of coats for all ages. The initiative was launched to help people stretch tight budgets that little bit further. Last winter's donations of 1,022 coats and the uptake of 904, were so successful that the exchange is being repeated. Donors are asked to hand items directly to a member of staff at one of the participating libraries: Taunton, Priorswood (Taunton), Bridgwater, Yeovil, Glastonbury, Chard, and Dulverton.

Residents survey: Somerset Council has launched a new consultation to ask local people for their views on where they live and the services the council provides. The 2024 Resident Survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and the results will be used measure progress against Somerset's priorities and shape future services. You can take part in the <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/resident-survey-2024/>
The survey closes on Monday 21 October.

Recycling rates: Figures which cover the recycling from the 296,000 kerbside recycling collections made each week, and the recycling taken to the county's 16 recycling sites shows that more than 130,000 tonnes of carbon was saved last year thanks to the material being recycled and reused in Somerset. The equivalent of taking 50,000 cars off the road for a year. The amount of waste going to landfill - approximately 5,500 tonnes - is a record low and nearly 96% of the recycling material stayed in the UK to be turned into new products and packaging, including more than 99% of plastics. Overall the county's recycling rate of 55.96% puts it in the top 20% of waste authorities in England.

Flu and Covid vaccinations: NHS England has confirmed that, based on the latest scientific evidence, the JCVI has recommended adults over the age of 65 will be eligible for a flu with the offer starting from October 3rd, to maximise protection for patients right across the winter months. The flu season typically peaks in January when more people gather indoors. The flu vaccine is also available at the same time with other vaccines such as the COVID-19 and shingles vaccines. More information and booking is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/book-flu-vaccination/>

Somerset Prepared Day: To help Somerset communities become stronger and more resilient to emergencies, the Somerset Prepared Partnership is organising its annual event for City, Town and Parish Councils and Community Group representatives on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club.

There will also be a range of workshops, networking opportunities and equipment demonstrations. The event will also include presentation of the community resilience awards. There is no charge to attend, and it includes a light lunch, but Delegates are required to book in advance via <https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/somerset-prepared-community-resilience-conference-2024/>

Date of Next Meetings:

23rd October 2024

Planning meeting

13th November 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

Philip Ham
Chairman
Coleford Parish Council