

# Parish Council of Coleford

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## Newsletter for March 2026

### Planning

2024/1898/REM - Land South Of Suncroft, Anchor Road, Coleford

Reserved matters approval for details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission reference 2019/2345/OTS (Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the erection of up to 63 dwellings). (Add/amended info. rec'd 18.02.2026).

All Councillors agreed that the following issues are yet to be addressed within the application: Highways, the number of parking spaces, the lighting plan, the bat corridor still has a footpath running through it and there is still no new evidence relating to the coal mining shafts – only 1 has been located from the 6 which are known to be onsite. It would be a breach of health and safety if these were not found and addressed. It was agreed that a draft response recommending refusal would be submitted

2026/0346/TPO – Oak (T1) Remove dead trunk as per photograph (M1233)

41 Beacon View, Coleford, BA3 5PE

Received for notification only



### Planning updates

A response had been received from Somerset Council regarding our recent questions via the Freedom of Information request. They confirmed that the external costs of the Mendip Local Plan Part II totaled £228,500 External costs of the Judicial Review into adoption of the Local Plan Part II £60,000 and External costs of the Mendip Costs of the Mendip Local Plan Limited update £80,500 making a total £369,000. However, the Council have stated that they are not able to provide the internal costs. Coleford Parish Council had notified Somerset Council that there were sufficient number of houses to meet the 505 houses without the need for another call for sites. The Council needs to decide whether to take this further so will discuss at the next meeting.

### Highways:

The following issues were reported to Somerset Council:

- Highbury St - Glen View sunk drain/pothole
- Lipyeate - Hill Farm to Lipyeate House - numerous edge erosions/potholes
- Cherry Gardens Lane - north of Lipyeate Farmhouse - numerous edge erosions/potholes
- Dark Lane - north of Luckington Manor Farmhouse - numerous edge erosions/potholes
- Dark Lane - south of Luckington Manor Farmhouse - potholes and flooding
- Anchor Rd - Pedestrian crossing - hastener sent as it has deteriorated



Other issues:

- Road closure at Stockhill - 2 issues - at junction of Newbury Lane and Highbury St - Somerset Highways were requested to place No Waiting signs so HGVs from Newbury Works would have room to turn right. Also, the signage of Road Closed Ahead coming into Coleford was placed the village side of the Vobster Inn without saying where it was closed so vehicles were going past it up to Stockhill to the closure then having to turn round in the narrow lane. Somerset Highways were asked to correct the misplacement and sign proper Diversion route.
- Preachers Vale - assurance obtained from National Grid that their works there will not require any power cuts.

### Reporting an issue on the Highway:

It's clear that the roads have deteriorated after all the rain that we have had recently. It's really easy to report an issue such as a pothole, via the Somerset Council website. Once reported, it will be inspected within 3 working days and a repair will be planned as set out in their Inspection manual. The website link is: <https://service.somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-the-road> It takes about 3 minutes to complete the online form. You drop a pin onto a map to show the location of the issue and will be asked for:

- Your name and phone number, in case they need to contact you
- Where the pothole or road defect is, including post code, road name and parish
- If the pothole or defect is outside a specific property. For example, outside Number 4, or near lamp column number 27



Provide as much information as possible so that the inspector will find the pothole or road defect. The more information you give, the easier it will be to find.

### Police report

The report from PCSO Will Mortimer is available on the Parish Council website. During the month of February there was 1 report of Arson and Criminal Damage, 1 Burglary, 1 Non recordable and 5 cases of Violence against the person. The report included articles on:



- Protecting animals from catapult attacks
- Fly tipping, how to report it, who responds
- How to report suspicious activities in the Countryside
- Community Speedwatch

### Somerset Council

The full report is posted on the Parish Council website for perusal. The highlights were noted as:

- Council tax increase of 4.99% were agreed after Government rejected the request of 11%
- Government had concerns over Somerset Council Finances in response to their request for a £30 million of Exceptional Financial Support.
- Government to clear 90% of Somerset SEND deficit
- Concern of the cost of potholes and the repair standards
- Devolution and Wessex spatial strategy update
- Consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning
- Policy Framework
- Have your say on Green Lane proposals
- Dog control PSPOs review and consultation
- Residents invited to shape the future of Adult social care



Somerset Cllr Barry Clarke also added that:

- Nine planning enforcement officers are being recruited at Somerset Council

- Housing grants up to £1K are available until September.
- Transport funding of £2.5m allocated for buses.
- Road improvements and surveillance by the police are being undertaken on the Frome bypass to improve road safety.

### Careys Mead telephone



Having announced last month that the Careys Mead phone box was going to be painted yellow we have to say that due to a miscount of votes, the overwhelming majority actually wanted the phone box to stay the same, so it will now be renovated and remain traditional red.

### Annual Litter Pick

We're thrilled to hear that Wainwrights have again agreed to provide traffic management to allow Charnborough Lane to be closed for litter picking. The event will take place **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026** meeting at **Highbury Playing Field Car Park at 10am**. We really hope that parishioners will volunteer for a couple of hours to help give Coleford a Spring Clean. Equipment & hi viz will be provided, just wear appropriate clothes, footwear and bring gloves. Any further information, please get in touch [clerk@colefordpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk)



### Allotment Photography Project 2026

Cllr Swords would like to photograph the Coleford Allotments across the year from January to December 2026 exploring how the plots and environment change across the year. Portraits of allotment holders in their plots would be taken by consent and interviews conducted as to what they enjoy about the allotments, what they're growing, health benefits etc. This would culminate in an exhibition at the Hub, a small book and a calendar for sale at Christmas with proceeds going towards the allotments.

Councilors agreed that this would be an exciting project which they all supported providing allotment holders are given the opportunity not to be included if they so wish.

### Date of Next Meetings:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Annual Litter Pick @ 10am meeting at Highbury playing field car park. |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2026 | Annual meeting of the Parish & Planning meeting                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2026  | 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](mailto:clerk@colefordpc.org.uk) Check out the website [www.colefordpc.org.uk](http://www.colefordpc.org.uk)

**Philip Ham**  
Chairman of Coleford Parish Council