

## **MDC Mendip (Mid) Monthly November 1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**

**For our parishes, towns and city council**

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### **Handmade eco-wreaths add deeply personal touch to Mendip's Remembrance Sunday services**

Mendip District Councillors paid their respects to the fallen at services of Remembrance across the district on Sunday.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of our city, towns and local rural communities as a reminder of the sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

The eco-wreaths used at the ceremonies added a poignant touch to the commemorations. Each contained carefully crafted poppies, individually made by Mendip residents.

The handmade knitted and crocheted woollen poppies were attached to wreaths of natural materials, with straw or willow bases and fresh greenery, by expert florists at the Street-based firm, 'Luce Loves Flowers', and Glastonbury's 'Abundiflora'.



Councillor Liz Leyshon, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects at Mendip District Council, co-ordinated the eco-wreath collection.

She said: "I would like to thank all those residents and businesses involved, for putting in the time, effort and expertise in creating these deeply thoughtful tributes. They really do add something special, and very personal, to the commemorations in Mendip."

Cllr Ros Wyke, Leader of Mendip District Council, (pictured right) attended at Meare, representing all Mendip's rural communities.



Cllr Liz Leyshon, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services and Projects was at Street.



Cllr Rob Ayres, Chair of the Audit Committee laid a wreath at Wells.



Cllr Helen Sprawson-White, Chair of the Council, attended a service in Frome.



Cllr Laura Wolfers, Chair of Street Parish Council (left), Cllr Jon Cousins, Mayor of Glastonbury Town Council (centre), and Cllr Nick Cottle, Deputy Chair of Mendip District Council (right) were in Glastonbury for Remembrance Day 2021.



Cllr Chris Inchley, Chair of Scrutiny Board was at the Shepton Mallet service.



## Stop-and-search exercises continue in Mendip as authorities get tough on fly-tippers

Mendip District Council officers, and Avon and Somerset Police, are working in partnership to crack-down on environmental crime in the district.

A joint stop-and-search exercise was carried out in Wells this week. The authorities inspected 28 vehicles of interest on Strawberry Way. A quarter of those stopped could not present a valid Waste Carriers Licence, as issued by the Environment Agency.

Mendip officers and the police reported the majority of vehicle owners were compliant with legislation requirements, but some businesses will now be subject to follow-up action and further enquiries. They could face a potential £300 Fixed-Penalty-Notice.

The Wells 'sting' follows similar stop-and-search exercises in Frome last month. In one operation at Oldford Hill, one fifth of the transporters inspected were unable to furnish the correct documentation. Two of the vehicles stopped originated from the London and Brighton areas.

Fly-tippers don't care about the environment or our communities – but Mendip District Council does. Please help us prevent environmental crime. If you spot a fly-tipping incident, report it to us as soon as possible.

Call our customer service team on 0300 303 8588 or go to our website: [Fly Tipping](#)

**Did you know?** Mendip residents can be prosecuted even if their waste is fly-tipped by someone else on their behalf - so always use a registered waste carrier to collect your rubbish. Find a registered waste carrier in your area on the Environment Agency's website: [environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers](https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers)

**Please note:** The Council is responsible for sweeping the streets and removing litter. The Council does not clear dumped rubbish or litter from **private land**, this is the responsibility of the landowner/tenant.

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10567/Stop-and-search-exercises-continue-in-Mendip-as-authorities-get-tough-on-fly-tippers>

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## Talk to your Council about money

Mendip District Council is encouraging residents who are struggling financially to come forward and talk. The Council can support those with money worries and wants to reassure residents that they need not suffer in silence when help is out there.

### Your Council can:

- Offer eligible residents Council Tax Support [Council Tax Support](#)
- Assist people through Hardship Funding [Council Tax Hardship Payments \(CTHP\)](#)
- Issue Discretionary Housing Payments [Discretionary Housing Payments \(DHP\)](#)
- Help struggling businesses with rates relief [Business Rates](#)

Mendip took part recently in a national five-day campaign to get people to share their concerns during Talk Money Week, 8-12 November, organised by the Money and Pension Service. The aim was to build financial confidence and resilience in people, by encouraging conversation.

Citizens Advice Mendip [Citizen Advice Mendip website](#) and Government organisations such as Money Helper [www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en) supported the campaign. They offer free advice and guidance on benefits, work, housing, debts, scams and more. If residents feel more comfortable approaching them with their financial concerns, they'd welcome any enquiries.

Learn more about Talk Money Week here: <https://maps.org.uk/talk-money-week/>.

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10553/Talk-to-your-Council-about-money-this-Talk-Money-Week>

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## **'Christmas in Wells' returns to city with festive cheer, post-pandemic**

Your District Council is set to bring some seasonal cheer to traders and shoppers alike, by hosting a festive market in Mendip's favourite city on the 11th and 18th December. The traditional 'Christmas in Wells' Market will operate from 9am-3pm, with up to 100 stalls expected to line the Market Place, and Bishop's Palace Green. Stay up to date with all the market news, by following the Facebook and Instagram pages at @WellsChristmasMarket, or visit [Christmas in Wells](#).

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10535/Christmas-in-Wells-returns-to-city-with-festive-cheer-post-pandemic>

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## **Free festive parking in Mendip**

Free car parking will be available in all Mendip-owned pay and display car parks for one week, from Saturday 18th December until Friday 24th December 2021.

The Council is also providing free parking all-day on Saturday 1st January. This is to support drivers who park vehicles in car parks on New Year's Eve, to use alternative and safe methods of transport to get home. Full details on Mendip's free parking offer can be found here: [Free festive parking this Christmas in Mendip](#)

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## **Supporting Small Business Saturday on 4<sup>th</sup> December**

There's a fee-free day planned to support Small Business Saturday at selected car parks. Anyone visiting the area for Small Business Saturday, on 4th December, will find charges suspended across the following car parks: Cranhill Road in Street, St John's car park in Glastonbury, Union Street in Wells, Great Ostry in Shepton Mallet and the Cattle Market in Frome.

Residents are asked to note that although parking is free, all other terms and conditions of car parking within the relevant car parks remain.

- **Check the time limits**
- **Don't park in disabled bays**
- **Park responsibly**

Penalty charges will be issued if you breach the conditions. For more information on Mendip car parks, please visit our web page [Pay & Display Car Parks in Mendip](#).

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10471/Free-festive-parking-this-Christmas-in-Mendip>

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## **Mendip Business Hub**

Mendip Business Hub is a new online Council service which works with businesses in the district by providing expert advice, guidance, and support. It is a one-stop-shop for information, networking opportunities, consultancy, and events.

Learn more about the Hub and its service here: [Mendip Business Hub](#)

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## **Retail Recovery Programme – FREE Christmas workshops and website reviews with COSMIC**

This Autumn, COSMIC is offering eligible retail businesses in Devon & Somerset the opportunity to attend a FREE workshop to get businesses ready to maximise sales this Christmas.

- Website & SEO workshop: Monday 22 November 2021, 10am-1pm. [Booking details](#).
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## **The Future Farm Resilience Programme**

This programme is FREE to all farmers and land managers who are based in Somerset. These topics are being delivered through a programme of workshops.

Visit: [Future Farming Resilience | Somerset Business Agency](#) where there is a facility to register your interest and to book on to the events through Eventbrite. Here: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/somerset-business-agency-18442360127](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/somerset-business-agency-18442360127)

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## **COVID-19**

### **Mobile Testing Unit at North Parade car park, Frome**

Keep COVID-19 out of our communities and have Anyone wishing to get tested must book a test in advance, and tests are only available for those with coronavirus symptoms – a high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste.

Anyone with one or more of these symptoms should book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119.

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10519/Covid-19-Mobile-Testing-Unit-heading-to-Frome>

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## Climate change

### Glastonbury Town Deal to play vital role in addressing climate change

As COP26 draws to a close, leaders involved in the Glastonbury Town Deal are highlighting the important role that the investment could play in helping to tackle climate change.

The town is set to benefit from £23.6m of investment from the government's Town Deal Fund scheme, funding the 12 projects outlined in the Glastonbury Town Investment Plan. One of the key objectives in this Plan is to 'Tackle climate change and contribute towards Glastonbury becoming a carbon neutral town by 2030' - a commitment that has been jointly made by Glastonbury Town Council and Mendip District Council.

At the heart of the Town Investment Plan is the Glastonbury Clean Energy project, which aims to generate renewable energy for use by many of the other projects within the Plan, as well as other local businesses and residents. The Clean Energy project will be delivered by Avalon Community Energy in collaboration with Mendip District Council, Glastonbury Town Council, other Town Deal projects, Beckery Island businesses, community organisations and landowners.

For further information, visit: [www.mendip.gov.uk/glastotowndeal](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/glastotowndeal)

Read the published TIP here: [www.mendip.gov.uk/towninvestmentplan](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/towninvestmentplan)

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10559/Glastonbury-Town-Deal-to-play-vital-role-in-addressing-climate-change>

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#### Mendip's Climate Change and Resilience Officer is Jacob Hall

Email: [climate@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:climate@mendip.gov.uk)

Jacob attends virtual Parish Forums each month

He'll be happy to answer any queries you may have

You can find the Carbon Management Plan here:

<https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10314/Carbon-Pathway-Emissions-Strategy>

**The Pledge Card** can be downloaded from the Council's website here: [www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8650/Climate-Action](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/8650/Climate-Action)

Explore Mendip's **climate change pages** here: [www.mendip.gov.uk/climatechange](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/climatechange)

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### **Invitation to CPRE 'Rewilding Somerset' event**

CPRE Somerset, the countryside charity, are holding a "Rewilding Somerset" event on Friday 19th November at 12.45PM, Edgar Hall, Somerton, exploring the potential to make Somerset a greener, wilder place where wildlife and communities can thrive. Rewilding success stories around the UK to be shared a look at real examples of smaller scale rewilding projects just beginning here in Somerset.

The event is free for CPRE members and we are inviting donations from non-members, which can be given when booking or on the day at the in-person event.

You are invited to attend in person for this exciting event or you can sign up to view the live stream on YouTube. BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

Book your place to attend in person here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cpresomerset/591985>

Click here to watch the event live streamed on YouTube:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cpresomerset/587847>

If you have any queries, please contact [admin@cpresomerset.org.uk](mailto:admin@cpresomerset.org.uk)

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### **From our Partners**

#### **Balfour Beatty clear stockpiles Saxonvale site**

Stockpiles of rubble are being removed from the Saxonvale heritage site in Frome. The works began on Monday 8th November and will continue for the next three to four weeks.

The majority of materials consist of crushed concrete, which will be loaded by an excavator into eight-wheeled wagons. These wagons will access and leave the site via the Garsdale Road entrance. All lorry movements will take place during normal working hours, between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

There may be some minor disruption to the local road network due to vehicle movements. Apologies in advance go to residents, local businesses and motorists who may find themselves temporarily inconvenienced during the removal works.

Balfour Beatty currently have operational control of the site, which is closed to the public due to strict safety measures. Landowners, Mendip District Council, commissioned the contractors to clear the area, ready for construction.

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10565/Stockpiles-cleared-from-Saxonvale-site>

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## Somerset Waste Partnership – Festive Collections

<b>Festive collections 2021-22</b>			
Usual collection day	Revised collection day	Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Friday 24 December	<b>No change</b>	Monday 3 January	<b>Tuesday 4 January</b>
Monday 27 December	<b>Tuesday 28 December</b>	Tuesday 4 January	<b>Wednesday 5 January</b>
Tuesday 28 December	<b>Wednesday 29 December</b>	Wednesday 5 January	<b>Thursday 6 January</b>
Wednesday 29 December	<b>Thursday 30 December</b>	Thursday 6 January	<b>Friday 7 January</b>
Thursday 30 December	<b>Friday 31 December</b>	Friday 7 January	<b>Saturday 8 January</b>
Friday 31 December	<b>Sunday 2 January 2022</b>	<small>No garden waste pick-ups in festive fortnight, above. All collections resume from Monday 10 January. Recycle sites on usual schedules except all close Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Extra site open days: Dulverton Monday 27 December, Crewkerne Tuesday 28 December</small>	

 Somerset Waste Partnership 

## Unitary News

### Joint Committee meeting signals first steps to single unitary council for Somerset

A new Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Joint Committee has met in Somerset to steer the move to a single unitary council for the county. The two-hour public meeting was hosted by Mendip District Council at their offices in Shepton Mallet (5th November 2021).

The Committee consists of nine members from both District and County Councils, including the five Somerset Council Leaders, plus four Somerset County Councillors. Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council, chaired the meeting and Cllr Val Keitch, Leader of South Somerset District Council, was unanimously elected Vice-Chair.

They discussed terms of reference, programme governance, budget, future meetings and agreed a work programme. The Committee also agreed that the name of the new unitary authority, as proposed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), would be 'Somerset Council' as of 1st April 2023 (vesting day).

Some matters regarding the draft Structural Changes Order (SCO) - the basic operating and governance principles for transition from five existing Councils to the new unitary council - were deferred to allow for further consultation within individual councils. They included the date of the next elections (either May 2022 or May 2023), plus the proposal that Somerset County Council will be the "continuing authority" for the new Council.

Papers for the inaugural meeting of the Joint Committee can be viewed online now. The meeting was recorded on Microsoft Teams and this recording will be available shortly. You can find full details [here](#).

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10554/Joint-Committee-meeting-signals-first-steps-to-single-unitary-council-for-Somerset>

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### **Help shape a new unitary council for Somerset**

Organisations from across the county are joining together to deliver a new unitary council for Somerset – and local people are encouraged to be part of the conversation.

A public meeting is planned at Donyatt Village Hall, near Ilminster, on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 3pm until 5pm. It's the third in a series of monthly events where residents and communities are invited to learn about, and feed into, the new council process.

Members of the recently-established Joint Advisory Board will be on-hand to answer any queries. They include representatives from Somerset County Council, the four District Councils, Somerset Association of Local Councils, City, Town and Parish Councils, health, police, education, and the voluntary and community sector.

The Board is also developing links with the Somerset Youth Parliament, and is particularly keen to engage young people in the sessions.

The role of the Board is advisory, but its proposals, ideas and recommendations will feed in to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Joint Committee – the decision-making body.

On the agenda at the Board this month will be the operating and governance principles of the new council, communications, an update on Local Community Networks (LCNs) and emerging plans for the next Town and Parish Council Conference. Covid safety measures will be in place and mask-wearing is encouraged by attendees.

**Press Release:** <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10568/Help-us-shape-a-new-unitary-council-for-Somerset>

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## Parish Forum Dates

14th	December 2021	@6:15pm
11th	January 2022	@6:15pm
8th	February 2022	@6:15pm
8th	March 2022	@6:15pm

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## Council opening times : Christmas and New Year

We can confirm that our council offices in Shepton Mallet will be open on the following days during the festive season.

• <b>Thursday 23rd December</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>
• <b>Friday 24th December</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>
• Saturday 25th December	Closed Weekend
• Sunday 26th December	Closed Weekend
• Monday 27th December	Closed Bank Holiday
• Tuesday 28th December	Closed Bank Holiday
• <b>Wednesday 29th December</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>
• <b>Thursday 30th December</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>
• <b>Friday 31st December</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>
• Saturday 1st January	Closed Weekend
• Sunday 2nd January	Closed Weekend
• Monday 3rd January	Closed Bank Holiday
• <b>Tuesday 4th January</b>	<b>Open normal opening hours (8.30am-5pm)</b>



Please be aware that COVID-19 restrictions could escalate during the winter months at short notice. We will of course notify you if the situation changes.

**Request it, report it, pay for it.** Residents can contact the Council directly online. All forms and systems can be accessed quickly and easily via the relevant service webpage [mendip.gov.uk/ourservices](https://mendip.gov.uk/ourservices)

**Call the Council on 0300 303 8588.** Our contact centre is open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm. If residents call out of hours, and it's an emergency, they should select option 4, then option 5. Local rate call tariffs apply.

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Mendip Monthly is compiled and issued by Mendip's Marketing and Media Team.

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