

## County Councillor Update

Coker Division SCC

Cllr Mark Keating

June 2019



**County Councillor Mark Keating - Representing you locally at Somerset County Council. Barwick, Chiselborough, Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Manderville, Hardington Marsh, Hardington Moor, Haselbury Plucknett, Lower Odcombe, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, North Coker, North Perrott, Norton Sub Hamdon, Odcombe, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham, Stoford, West Chinnock and West Coker**

### Useful Contacts & Websites

South Somerset Area Highways Office	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Report Pothole/Road Defect	E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Report Dead Animal/Mud on Road	E: roadsandtransportSD@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Neil McWilliams – Highways Service Manager	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Lee Norman – Assist Highways Service Manager	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Garry Warren – Traffic Engineer. Traffic & Transport Development	E: countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
Gully Emptying / Road Sweeper	E: chris.holley@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462
Nick Allen – SSDC Ranger Scheme	E: nick.allen@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462

Report Adult at Risk	adults@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224 T: Emergency: 999
Report Child at Risk	childrens@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224 T: Emergency: 999
Children's Social Care Worker out of hours <b>Emergency Duty Team</b>		T: 0300 123 2327
Fostering and Adoption www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk	AandFRecruitmentEnquiryLine@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0800 587 9900

<a href="http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk">www.somersetwaste.gov.uk</a>	ssdc@southsomerset.gov.uk	T: 01935 462462
www.travelsomerset.gov.uk	Useful website - all travel in Somerset	
SCC website - <a href="http://www.somerset.gov.uk">www.somerset.gov.uk</a>	generalenquiries@somerset.gov.uk	T: 0300 123 2224
http://roadworks.org/	Useful website for road works info	
www.facebook.com/somersetcountycouncil	SCC Facebook page	

**Panorama:** The Panorama programmes 'Crisis in Care' highlighted the incredible work by Adult Social Care staff based in Somerset. In two very moving programmes, the difficulty of managing ever-increasing demand with reduced funding was brought into sharp focus. The programmes provide a very balanced view of the challenges faced by front line staff and the Council and it is hoped that it will help galvanise the national debate on the future funding of care. Broadcast dates are May 29<sup>th</sup> Crisis in Care – Who Cares? June 5<sup>th</sup> Crisis in Care - Who Pays? Both are available through BBC iPlayer for the month of June.

**National Volunteering Week:** The first week of June is always National Volunteering week where the invaluable work of volunteers from across the County is recognised and celebrated. Every week hundreds of volunteers give up thousands of hours to support a wide range of activities throughout Somerset. Volunteering through the County Council could not be easier – whether its driving or mentoring, assisting the libraries or AONB's there are opportunities for everyone at <https://volunteeringsomerset.gov.uk/>

**LIFEbeat camps:** Summer camps are at the heart of the LIFEbeat experience, providing intensive residential programmes where 50 young people work together with adult staff and volunteers to form a 'creative community' for a week. LIFEbeat focus on four outcomes which allow young people to build a greater understanding of themselves and others: self-esteem; emotional intelligence, social skills and resilience. For further information visit <https://lifebeat.uk/somerset/somerset-camp-2019>

**Small Improvement Schemes:** SCC have agreed to a further £1.3m of funding to the £1m budget to deliver a significantly increased number of Member-led small improvement schemes over the next 12 months. It is predicted that the number of deliverable schemes in the year will rise from 20 to 60 and work is now ongoing to re-schedule the delivery dates.

**Resurfacing programme 2019/20:** In 2019 SCC have 68 resurfacing schemes (17 Principal Road Schemes, 51 Non-Principal Road Schemes) totalling 22 miles to deliver plus two flood related re-surfacing schemes in West Somerset. In addition there will be Surface Dressing at 152 separate locations totalling 148 miles of roads. The total budget for this work is £14.5 million.

**Libraries:** Libraries across the County are hosting pyjama parties from 3 to 7 June – and distributing books to celebrate BookTrust's 'Pyjamarama' event aimed at getting more children reading. Families are encouraged to wear pyjamas and/or bring in teddy bears to join in with the fun at Pyjamarama themed Toddler Rhyme Times and other activities taking place throughout the week. BookTrust is working with Somerset County Council and other community partners to ensure as many children as possible have their very own story to read before bed. An estimated 1 in 4 children in the UK aged between 0 and 5 are not read to regularly. To help, BookTrust is giving out free books *at the* Pyjamarama themed events.

**Libraries 2:** Volunteers are needed this summer to pass their love of reading onto children during this year's Space Chase Summer Reading Challenge, taking place across all Somerset Libraries. Last year, over 7,400 children took part in the challenge in Somerset and this couldn't have been achieved without the help of volunteers who need to be aged 13 and over, with a love of reading, and able to give up some of their spare time over the summer holidays (between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> September). For more information visit [www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/srcvolunteering](http://www.somersetlibraries.co.uk/srcvolunteering)

**Cider standards:** Somerset local Cider producers have been put to the test, as part of a programme of annual food sample tests to ensure that food is properly described, compliant with required labelling, and does not contain unauthorised additives or other substances that would make them unsafe. As Somerset is a major cider producing areas, artisan ciders were tested for compliance with labelling, alcoholic content, the undisclosed use of sweeteners and the presence of sulphites. Most samples taken were satisfactory. However, six samples were found to have artificial sweeteners which were not properly declared, and one contained sulphites which were not indicated. All alcoholic content was satisfactory.

**Connecting Devon and Somerset:** Connecting Devon and Somerset is one of a number of local UK broadband programmes hit by delays, but it continues to make the hard yards to ensure our rural communities and businesses benefit from the digital revolution, as this latest update shows. Over 300,000 homes and businesses now have access to superfast broadband entirely thanks to CDS. Nearly 40,000 more have access to improved broadband connections because of the CDS programme. Over 250,000 miles of optical fibre has been laid by the CDS programme, enough to circle the Earth ten times, in what continues to be one of the biggest mass digital engineering ventures of its kind. That vital work is continuing and CDS is committed to helping communities get superfast broadband where the commercial market won't provide the infrastructure.