

Winter 2017
Special edition

NORTH LIFE
SOMERSET

WINTER FOCUS



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face the frost

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Dear reader,



Enjoying some late autumn sunshine as I write this. It's easy not to think about the coming winter, especially when North Somerset so often benefits from relatively mild conditions and little snow and ice.

However, planning ahead for worst case scenarios is a vital service for residents and businesses if we are all to continue with our day-to-day activities in the event of a particularly bad spell.

That is why in this Winter Focus issue of North Somerset *Life* we have included advice on safety when going out in snow and icy conditions, as well as providing information on the salting routes across the area.

Of course, the cost and work involved in keeping roads open means we can only concentrate on prime routes, rather than the myriad of side roads and country lanes throughout the area. That is where local neighbourhoods can play their part. I know it's not unusual in rural areas for local farmers to get their tractors out to clear roads for their neighbours to get to the main roads, and in some villages and towns residents at least clear the snow and ice from outside their houses. But what happens in your road? Do you think 'It's the council's job' when the snow falls and your elderly neighbour daren't risk going to the shop, or do you get out the spade and clear the pavements to everyone's benefit? Jolly healthy exercise too!

This issue also coincides with the launch of a public consultation exercise on the next stage of the West of England Joint Spatial Plan, which requires us to meet the latest Government requirements for housing across the area, along with the infrastructure and employment needs to match the residential growth.

Believe me when I say this is not a popular exercise for the councillors charged with meeting the Government dictat and I know it is equally unpopular in most of the communities that are likely to be affected over the coming years.

Indeed, while the strategy covers all four West of England authorities, you can be assured that North Somerset continues to fight its corner and considerable time and debate has taken place to look at our own local housing and employment needs, the transport and other infrastructure necessary, and the funding we shall need from Government to maintain North Somerset as a place to enjoy.

But that's enough from me. The consultation is for you to comment on the progress made. I am going back to take advantage of that late autumn sunshine and the delights of our seaside location.

Councillor Elfan Ap Rees
Deputy Leader of North Somerset Council

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This publication is available in large print, Braille or audio formats on request. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. *Life* editor: 01275 884 139

Could you be a childminder?



Do you have an interest in working with children?

Would you like to work for yourself, from home?

The Government is currently offering £500 start-up grants for new childminders.

Call **01934 888 801** or visit: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childminding



Employment and benefits advice under one roof in Clevedon

Job hunters in Clevedon will soon be able to get both employment and benefits advice under one roof.

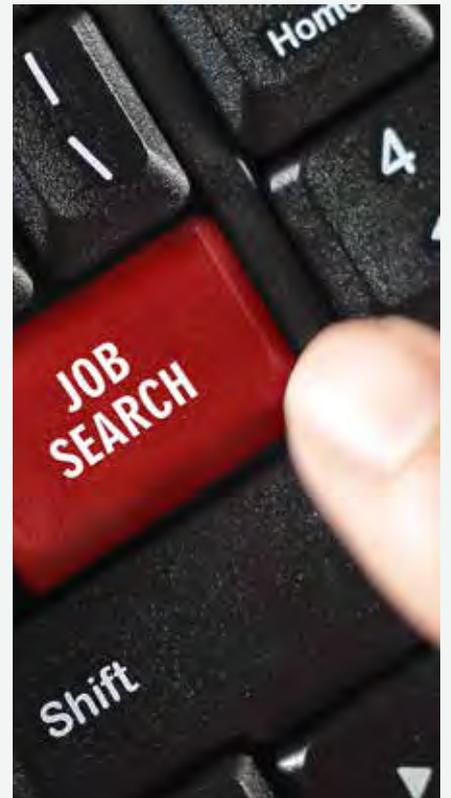
The shared accessible space opens in December and will be based at North Somerset Council's Castlewood office, in Tickenham Road.

It will combine Clevedon Jobcentre with the benefits service and include...

- officers on-hand to help with the online claim process for Universal Credit
- 10 public computers for making claims

- work coaches to help people back to work
- specialist advice and support for young people aged 16 and 17 to gain employment or go back to learning
- housing and benefits advice and financial planning
- advice for business start-ups, self-employment support and work experience placements.

The register office at Clevedon library will also relocate to the Castlewood offices in December.



Find out about Universal Credit and whether you are eligible at www.gov.uk/universalcredit

Support is still available for people on a low income or claiming benefits to help pay their council tax. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltax



Retire and relax

In the heart of North Somerset is **Sandford Station**, a lively retirement village with a great community spirit. The excellent facilities and staff provide the perfect retirement lifestyle.

To book a personal tour or to simply find out more call **0117 919 4262**. See our latest video of life at Sandford Station just type **ow.ly/XSYGw** into your browser.

Registered Charity 202151



St Monica Trust

International day marks domestic abuse awareness

Anyone living with domestic abuse is being urged to seek support as International Domestic Abuse Awareness Day approaches.

On Saturday 25 November agencies across the world will be urging people to seek help if they are living with controlling or threatening behaviour and/or physical violence.

North Somerset Council and partner agencies urge anyone affected by domestic abuse to find out what's available locally, including one-to-one support, and regular friendly drop-ins with survivors of domestic abuse.

Anyone affected by domestic abuse or worried about someone who might be can call DAFFS in confidence: 0800 69 49 999



Domestic abuse hurts **everyone...**

No matter who you are, remember:
You are not alone
Help is just a phone call away

Safety and Strength North Somerset Call the Domestic Abuse Freefone line on 08006 949 999 www.endabuse.org.uk

Enjoy live theatre this winter

Unique storytelling, rib-tickling adaptations and powerful performances are coming to two theatres in North Somerset this winter.

At Theatre Tropicana, on Weston-super-Mare's seafront, the season continues with...

- **For All The Fires Not Yet Lit**
Thursday 9 November, 7.30pm

An uplifting new solo show from award-winning singer songwriter Catherine Ireton. Watch bride-to-be Claire conquer her pre-wedding nerves. £10, ages 12+

- **The Sex Worker's Opera**
Thursday 16 – Saturday 18 November, 7.30pm

A multimedia production written and performed by sex workers and their friends, sharing personal stories, journeys and experiences. £14/£10, ages 16+

- **Mrs Gerrish's Rear Window**
Wednesday 6 December, 7.30pm

Alfred Hitchcock meets Carry on Constable, performed by the Ministry of Entertainment. £10, ages 14+



In Clevedon, The Theatre Shop is reopening in Queen Square.

Upcoming shows include...

- **ICHI's Shop Of Musical Experiments**
Thursday 16 November, 8pm

Bristol-based ICHI, from Nagoya in Japan, performs his one-man band show with balloon-pipes, percussion shoes, toys and everyday objects. £11, ages 12+

- **Mrs Gerrish's Rear Window**
Saturday 25 November, 7.30pm. £11, ages 14+

- **Goldilock, Stock and Three Smoking Bears**
Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 November, 7.30pm

Wardrobe Theatre return with their original take on the classic porridge-thieving fairy tale, merged with Guy Ritchie's cult 1998 cockney caper. £11, ages 12+

- **Living Spit's Nativity**
Tuesday 12 to Saturday 30 December, 8pm

As part of Tobacco Factory Theatres BEYOND season, Living Spit tackles the ultimate Christmas story. £14 from www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com or 0117 902 0344. Ages 16+

- **The Nutcracker – A Family Show**
Thursday 21 and Friday 22 December, 2.30pm playshop, 3.30pm performance

Wild Words and The Lochrian String Quartet Ensemble team up with storyteller Michael Loader and a young dancer to showcase The Nutcracker. £8, ages 4+

- **The Tale of The Cockatrice**
Thursday 28 and Friday 29 December, 11am and 2pm

North Somerset-based Mumblecrust Theatre intertwine legend, breath-taking puppetry and spine-tingling live music. £8, ages 6+

For Weston-super-Mare shows, book online at www.tropicana-weston.co.uk or through Tobacco Factory Theatres: 0117 9020 344

For Clevedon shows (except Living Spit's Nativity), book online at www.theatreshop.org.uk or call 0333 6663 366 (£1.50 booking fee applies)

Council leading in opportunities for disabled people



North Somerset Council has become only the second council in England to be awarded 'Leader' status under the Disability Confident Scheme.

About 5,000 organisations across the country have committed to the scheme with just 60 being assessed at the highest level of 'Leader'.

The scheme, run by the Government's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), recognises organisations who are committed to ensuring disabled people and those with long-term health conditions have the opportunities to fulfil their potential and realise their aspirations.

Brian Keating, head of disability confident policy at the DWP, said: "Having recognised the benefits of becoming a Disability Confident Leader, North Somerset Council is setting an example to other local authorities across the country."

Any businesses interested in signing up for the scheme can find out more at www.gov.uk/government/collections/disability-confident-campaign

Time to apply for school places

Now is the time to apply for school places if your child is due to start school next year.

If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, they can start at a primary or infant/first school from September next year and applications can now be made online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

The closing date is 11.59pm on 15 January and it's very important to apply by then otherwise you may not be considered in the first round of allocations.

Late applicants have less chance of being offered their preferred school.

This deadline also applies to parents of children due to transfer to a junior or middle school next September.

Parents can name up to three preferences and may apply for schools both within and outside North Somerset.



www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions

Help improve the council's website

Testers are still needed to give feedback on North Somerset Council's website to help make it better in the future.



North Somerset residents who are able to visit the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare or Castlewood office in Clevedon are needed to use the website to demonstrate how easy they find it to do things and find information.

The one-to-one sessions will be informal and will last for 90 minutes.

Testers can't be paid but refreshments will be provided.

For more information visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/websitetesting

Fundraising drive for Citizens Advice move

A fundraising drive has been launched to support Citizens Advice North Somerset and its move to a new building in Weston-super-Mare.

The advice centre is currently based at the Badger Centre, in Wadham Street, but this building is being transformed into The Stable co-working hub so a new home for the charity is needed.



North Somerset Council is helping Citizens Advice find new premises and the charity estimates it needs about £200,000 to create a modern and secure space.

Plans include a private interview room, training room and office space for the charity's 22 paid staff and 80 volunteers.

There will also be video conferencing facilities which will improve the service across North Somerset and help even more people.

Citizens Advice North Somerset is an independent charity and last year it helped more than 7,000 people with more than 22,000 issues.

Find out more at www.nscab.org.uk
Citizens Advice North Somerset:
03444 111 444

Social activities for all

Disabled people in North Somerset can now enjoy a range of activities thanks to new volunteer groups in the area.

The peer support service is run by WECIL (the West of England Centre for Inclusive Living) and is becoming more established throughout North Somerset.

It aims to bring people together to share experiences, support each other and try new things.

Anyone with any type of disability or long-term condition over the age of 18 is welcome to attend any of the friendly, welcoming and supportive groups.

Social activities include chair yoga in Backwell, a meet-up group at the Glassmaker pub in Nailsea, and the chance to try new things at the For All Healthy Living Centre in Weston-super-Mare.

A craft group also runs at 65 High Street, Nailsea, on the first Thursday of the month.



For more information visit www.wecil.co.uk, email peersupport@wecil.co.uk or call 0117 947 9942

Combat the cold with approved tradespeople

Prepare your home for winter and combat the cold using Trading Standards approved traders.

Buy With Confidence is the largest local authority run trader scheme in the UK and it ensures members are approved by Trading Standards, offer great customer service and are legal, honest and fair.

So whether you want to make sure your boiler and radiators are working safely, or your pipes need checking to help prevent them freezing, it is always better to use a business you can trust.



Just type your postcode into the website, the kind of business you are looking for, and then choose from the directory of Trading Standards-approved businesses in your area.

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

Could you be a befriender?

More volunteers are needed in North Somerset to support people who are affected by dementia and help them live full and happy lives.

The befriending scheme is run by the Alzheimer's Society, a national charity which provides information and support, improves care, funds research, and creates lasting change for people affected by dementia.



The charity is now looking for enthusiastic people in North Somerset who could spare two hours a fortnight to increase the wellbeing of individuals affected by dementia.

Anne Shermon, Alzheimer's Society befriending manager said: "The befriending service was established to help people in the local area living with dementia.

"Many individuals are isolated and have little contact with the outside world. Our volunteers engage and support people to maintain their hobbies and interests, either in their own home or the community."

Full training is offered and on-going support.

Across the UK, 225,000 people will develop dementia this year – one every three minutes.

For more information call befriending manager Anne Shermon on 07525 404 275 or email anne.shermon@alzheimers.org.uk

Feedback about local sports facilities needed

Active people in North Somerset who use sports facilities or playing pitches in the local area are being asked to give their feedback.

North Somerset Council wants to find out what people think about sports facilities and playing pitches to help develop new strategies.

Feedback will help plan the future provision of sport, leisure and community facilities, and demonstrate the need for them in new housing developments.

Consultants will visit all indoor and outdoor facilities over next 11 months, as well as contacting sports clubs, parish councils, and schools. If you are asked for your opinion, please respond.



www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning



Get ready for winter



Long-term weather forecasts are notoriously hard to predict but it's best to be prepared for what winter could bring.

It's been quite a few years since heavy snowfall last hit North Somerset and the passing of time makes us forget the impact it brings.

Plunging temperatures, floods or high winds can all bring disruption to daily life if roads freeze, schools close or recycling collections are affected.

Community Resilience North Somerset works closely with North Somerset Council to ensure that essential services can keep going and communities are supported to help themselves during the worst winter weather.

This Winter Focus special edition of *Life* includes advice about what to do when the bad weather sets in so you, your family and community are prepared for the worst.

Remember to follow North Somerset Council on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates.

Snowy schools

Schools make independent decisions about whether to close or not, based on their own circumstances.

Many schools have their own systems in place to contact parents directly via text message or their own website.

For closure information about council-run buildings, such as libraries, leisure centres and children's centres, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/disruption

Did you know?

Community grit bins, which are usually yellow but sometimes green, are purchased by town and parish councils and filled by North Somerset Council.

Grit is not for use on private land and it is an offence to take it for your personal use.

Any community grit bins (not those on private land) which need attention should be reported to North Somerset Council: **01934 888 802** or www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect

 /NorthSomersetCouncil

 @NorthSomersetC





Useful contacts

Keep these numbers handy ready for an emergency

- Report or get information about power cuts - **105**
- Wessex Water - **0345 600 4600**
- Gas - **0800 111 999**
- Floodline - **0345 988 1188**

Get direct flood warnings by signing up to the Environment Agency's flood information service at www.flood-warning-information-service.gov.uk

Stay up-to-date with Met Office weather warnings at www.metoffice.gov.uk or download the smartphone app.



Check and clear

Strong winds, snow and floods can be devastating but the impact can be limited if you 'check and clear' first.

Check...

- the condition of outbuildings and fences.
- leaves in gullies, and clear them if safe to do so
- that you have sufficient and in-date flood protection
- your neighbours, particularly older people
- your home emergency kit
- you know the phone numbers for key services.

Clear...

- your garden furniture away for the winter
- leaves from your gutters
- snow from your drive and the footpath.

Could you be a snow warden?

Community-minded people who would like to help their local area can now sign up to become a snow warden.

Snow wardens are volunteers who get out and about in their neighbourhoods when the snow falls to help clear paths and make it safe, whether they are paths to the local shop, doctors' surgery or other essential building.

Upcoming training sessions include:

- Tuesday 7 November – 6.30pm, Castlewood, Clevedon
- Monday 20 November – 2pm, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare
- Wednesday 29 November - 2pm, Castlewood, Clevedon
- Thursday 7 December – 6.30pm, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare



If 10 or more people in a community want to join the scheme, training sessions could be delivered in a local venue at a mutually-convenient time.

Insurance and equipment is provided.

To register your interest, call **01934 426 322** or email snow.warden@n-somerset.gov.uk with your name, contact details and preferred training date.

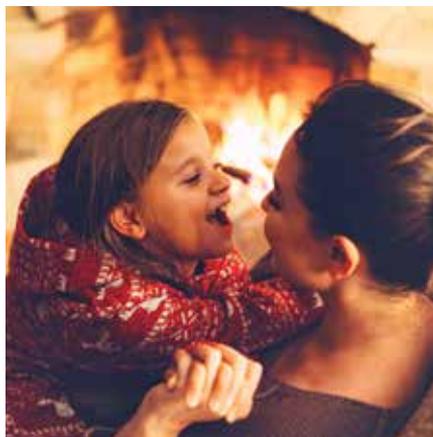
Find out what to put in a home emergency kit at www.communityresilience-ns.org.uk



Stay well this winter

Keeping warm and well over winter is important to avoid serious health problems.

Follow these top tips to keep you and your loved ones well during the upcoming colder months.



W

Warm – keep your house warm this winter

Coldness weakens the immune system, increases blood pressure, thickens the blood and lowers body temperature. This increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, and chest infections.

I

Immunisations – get your flu vaccination

Vaccination is the best protection for you and your loved ones against flu.

It is free of charge for people most at risk of developing complications. Contact your GP surgery if you think you're eligible, or contact your local pharmacy if you are over 18 years old.

Anyone else can have the flu jab for about £10. Contact your local pharmacy for details or text 'pharmacy flu' and your postcode to 80011 to receive details of your three closest participating pharmacies.

N

Neighbours – keep an eye on elderly neighbours and relatives

Cold weather can be very harmful, especially for people aged 65 or older. Check in on neighbours and loved ones.

T

Timely – seek advice from a pharmacist at the first sign of illness

If you start to feel unwell, even if it is just a cough or cold, get help from your pharmacist before it gets too serious. The sooner you get advice the better – pharmacists are there to help you stay well this winter.

E

Enough – pick up repeat prescriptions

If you've been prescribed antibiotics or other medication then remember to pick them up before the Christmas holidays start. Many GPs and pharmacies close over the festive period.

R

Restock – make sure you have enough food and medicine in your cupboards

Food gives you energy, which helps to keep you warm. Try to have regular hot meals and drinks throughout the day.



Where to go for help

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it...

- Hot meals and snacks are delivered to hundreds of people across the area who struggle to cook for themselves. Call community meals: **01275 882 867**
- 24-hour peace of mind is available through the Carelink community alarm. Call Care Connect: **01934 888 801**
- Government advice about energy-saving measures is available from: **www.gov.uk/warmthiswinter**
- A community oil buying scheme is available through the West of England Rural Network. Call **01275 333 701**
www.wern.org.uk/oil
- Genuine energy debt could be cleared through a grant. Call Talking Money: **0117 954 3990** **www.talkingmoney.org.uk**
- People born on or before 5 May 1953 are entitled to the winter fuel payment. Call the helpline: **03459 151 515**
- People in receipt of certain low income benefits can get a Warm Home Discount on their electricity bill. Call **0345 603 9439**
- Insulation and heating improvement funding is available for people on certain low income benefits who live in certain areas of North Somerset. Contact the home energy team at the Centre for Sustainable Energy: **0800 082 2234**
home.energy@cse.org.uk
- Grants are available for vulnerable or low income households to get a free gas connection. Apply to Wales and West Utilities: **08701 650 597** **www.ieservices.org.uk**

Remember!

If you do need help over the holiday period when your GP surgery or pharmacy is closed, call NHS 111 or visit **www.nhs.uk**. Advisers can direct you to a local service which is open.

To reduce your risk of getting flu or spreading it to others, you should always wash your hands regularly with soap and warm water, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and put used tissues in a bin as soon as possible

Don't go to A&E or call 999 unless it's an emergency.

Get the right care at the right time



If you become injured or unwell this winter then knowing where to go for help can save you time and effort.

In North Somerset more than a third of people who go to A and E each year could have received the same service from their GP or North Somerset Community Hospital in Clevedon.

And many conditions seen by local GPs could be self-treated at home, with advice from a local pharmacist.

There are many options for healthcare so choosing the right place to go for advice or treatment can sometimes seem a challenge.

But by making the right choices, it saves times for patients and reduces pressure on busy NHS services.

GPs are there for on-going illnesses and injuries.

For advice on less serious conditions that could be cared for at home, it's often much easier to pop in to your local pharmacist for a chat.

Many offer private consulting rooms and while there might be a short wait, you don't need an appointment.

For other situations needing urgent medical help, NHS 111 offers immediate medical advice.



The free-to-call service acts as a gateway to local urgent care services - whether the minor injuries unit or GP out-of-hours service - and tells you which is most suitable for your needs and how to access it.

Anyone injured or unwell over the winter period can get the right care first time...

- ✓ speak to your pharmacist for help with very minor ailments
- ✓ call 111 for urgent but non-emergency help
- ✓ visit the minor injury unit at North Somerset Community Hospital in Clevedon for injuries such as wounds and grazes, broken bones, trips and falls, and injuries in children over the age of three.
- ✓ For serious, life-threatening emergencies dial 999 or go to Weston Hospital A&E (open 8am to 10pm - outside these times, call 999 for emergency assistance).

NHS: 111 • www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/RightCareFirstTime

Delivering hot meals whatever the weather



Hot, nutritious meals are delivered to vulnerable adults across North Somerset even in the worst winter weather.

North Somerset Council's community meals on wheels service is delivered 363 days a year to older and vulnerable people across the area.

As well as delivering the hot meal, drivers are a friendly face who can perform a vital welfare check.

During winter this is even more important.

Emma Channon, community meals manager at North Somerset Council, said: "During any severe weather we never leave anyone alone without the support they require."

All meals are prepared and oven cooked with older adults in mind, and balanced to provide a third of a person's daily nutritional needs.

Meals are delivered by the same person every day to give consistency.

The team will always make sure the person is warm during winter and, if there are any concerns, they are followed up to make sure no-one is left at risk.



Meals on Wheels recipient Rosemary Knight with driver Nikki

More than just a meal

- **Smoke detector checks** – more than 300 homes were audited by meals on wheels drivers during May and June this year. A small number needed batteries changing or intervention from the fire service.
- **Working with pharmacies and post offices** – leaflets promoting meals on wheels are available in pharmacies and post offices this autumn, to remind older adults that it's important to eat well to aid recovery and keep warm.
- **Police Community Support Officers** – this month some delivery drivers will be accompanied by local PCSOs to provide a visible and reassuring presence in the community, as part of National Meals on Wheels Week.
- **Making every contact count** – a 'check and connect' form is given to new community meal recipients after the first few weeks. The form provides an opportunity to inform staff if any further advice or information is needed. Any requests are passed onto the relevant agencies.

Community meals: 01275 882 867 • community.meals@n-somerset.gov.uk
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/communitymeals

Getting spready for winter

As temperatures drop and cold weather kicks in, the council's fleet of gritters will be on round-the-clock standby to treat roads across North Somerset.

Planning for the winter maintenance programme starts much earlier in the year though – before summer even starts.



Year-round planning for plunging temperatures

"There's not much of a break really," said Phil Bush, the council's highways operations manager in charge of the winter maintenance programme.

A meeting is held in May to review operations from the previous winter, make sure plans are up-to-date for the coming one, and agree rotas for on-call staff.

During the summer months the gritters go to the supplier to be serviced and calibrated before being returned in September.

Phil said: "They will then be tested and any new drivers will be familiarised with the vehicle, routes and our operational plan.

"In September, I work with our highways contractor Skanska to make sure the salt barn is fully stocked."

Following the harsh winter of 2009/2010 when much of the country faced salt shortages, councils across the UK worked to reduce salt usage and help maintain national salt stocks.

In North Somerset salt stocks have never run out and the council has worked hard to meet guidance on conserving stocks.

The council's salt barn can hold 2,000 tonnes and national advice is followed about how much can be stored throughout the year.

Salt has a shelf life of three years so the council works closely with its contractor to monitor stock levels and make sure there's adequate rotation.

The six gritters – named Ice Cracker, Big Grit, Scoopy, Ice Destroyer, Mr G and Frosty by local school children – are on standby ready to treat North Somerset roads from the end of October until the end of March.

This can be extended if low temperatures persist.





Grit expectations

Each of the six gritters is assigned a route and together they treat more than 231 miles of roads across North Somerset.

During winter, the gritters are based at the council's highways depot in Sandford, run by Skanska.

Site agents Martin Taylor and Rob Webb lead Skanska's operations.

Martin said: "Before they go out we make sure the gritters are loaded with enough salt and the correct spread rate is set.

"I also make sure drivers are aware of any wet spots – areas of running water – that need treating to prevent ice forming."

There is a team of 12 drivers who work in two teams of six, plus four drivers in reserve.

Rob added: "These are the same guys who repair potholes and other maintenance jobs, which they keep on doing during winter."

There is just one driver in the vehicle while gritting but if snow needs to be ploughed then a 'ploughmate' will accompany the driver to keep an eye on the left side of the vehicle.

Gritters need to keep moving to spread the salt properly so aren't usually sent out during rush hour.

Depending on the weather they start about 7pm and, if necessary, will also grit in the early hours before the morning rush hour.

Rob added: "Each driver will normally be out driving the gritters for up to three hours and we usually know by lunchtime if we're going to be gritting that evening.

"In the case of an emergency we have a response time of two hours."

The drivers are more than qualified for the job – each has an NVQ City and Guilds to operate the spreader and plough as well as an HGV licence.

They also need to be trained in operating the loader back at the salt barn, in case they need to go back and reload.

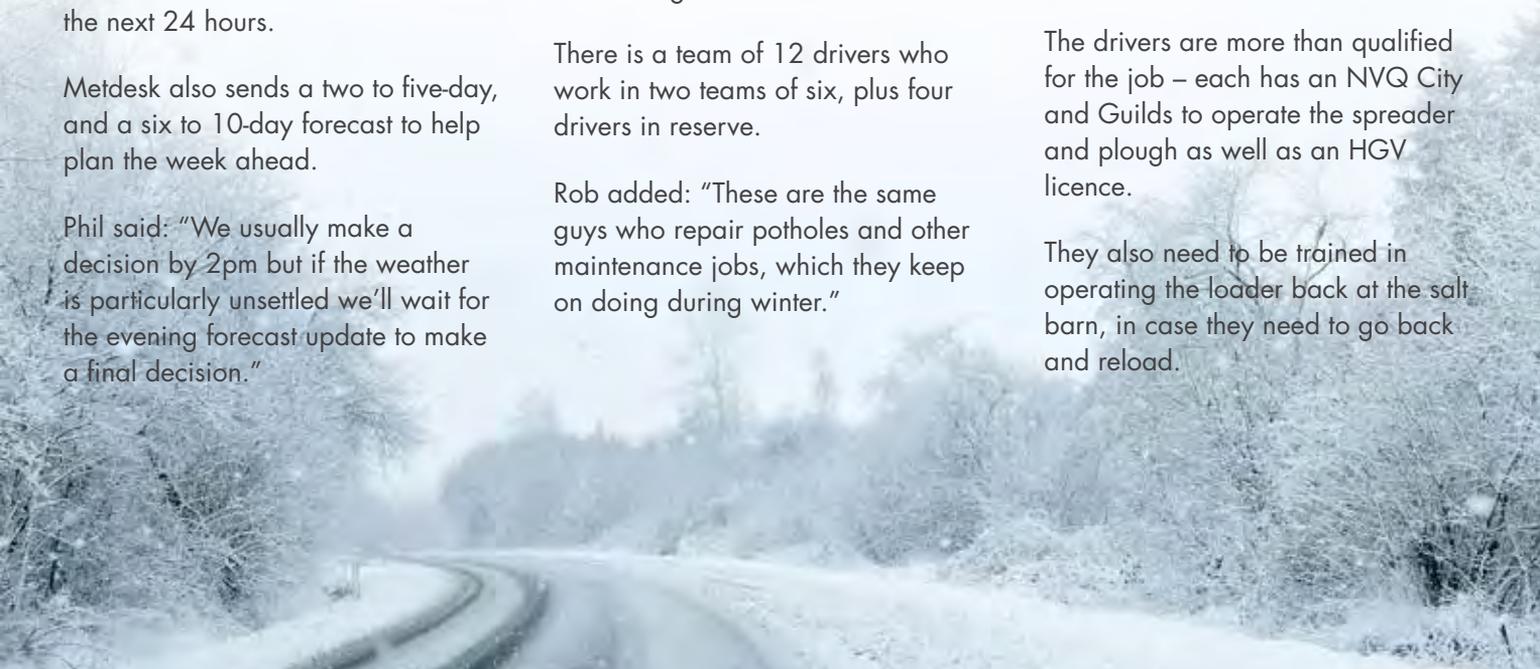
Officers from the council's highways team are also on round-the-clock duty during this time to monitor weather conditions and decide when gritters need to be sent out.

Detailed weather information is received from specialist forecaster Metdesk from October until May.

Daily forecasts are received at about noon and the on-duty officer will consider what action is needed over the next 24 hours.

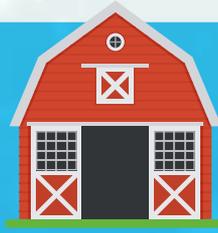
Metdesk also sends a two to five-day, and a six to 10-day forecast to help plan the week ahead.

Phil said: "We usually make a decision by 2pm but if the weather is particularly unsettled we'll wait for the evening forecast update to make a final decision."



Keep on the move this winter

2,000 TONNES
of salt is held in the council's storage barn



8 TO 20 GRAMS
PER SQUARE METRE

The rate salt is spread



6

gritter lorries are on round-the-clock standby

231 MILES

of North Somerset's roads are salted



About **34%** of the road network

STAFF



are on duty 24 hours-a-day and crews can be called out with two hours' notice



GRITTERS GO OUT EARLY MORNING OR AFTER RUSH HOUR



Moving traffic helps make the salt more effective

ON-BOARD TRACKING SYSTEMS



provide data about each gritter's location and how much salt it's dispersed



WE USE SALT

Salt is de-icing whereas grit is only effective as an abrasive to break down ice and snow

A370

A38

A369

If it snows we focus on the main roads.

Major 'A' roads will then be ploughed as a priority, followed by other strategic 'B' and 'C' roads



Salting routes in North Somerset



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Top tips for drivers

Travelling can be treacherous in severe winter weather so follow these top tips when the frost starts biting...

Before winter weather arrives

- ✓ Check your vehicle is well serviced, tyres (including the spare) have good depth and are properly inflated, the battery is in good condition, lights are clean and working, and windscreen wipers and washers are working and topped up.

Before setting off

- ✓ Listen to local and national radio for travel information. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roadworks for current and future roadworks, diversion routes and live traffic flow.
- ✓ Clear all snow and ice from windows, mirrors and lights and demist the windows. Make sure you can see clearly all around before starting a journey.

- ✓ If you plan to drive, make sure there is plenty of petrol in the tank. Keep a winter weather kit in your vehicle – a scraper, de-icer, warm clothes, shovel and torch. Consider taking hot drinks with you.
- ✓ Low winter sun can dazzle a driver and further reduce visibility. Use sunglasses or your sun visor. Slow down if you can't see ahead clearly.
- ✓ Make sure your mobile phone is charged in case of an emergency.
- ✓ If the weather is severe, ask yourself if the journey is essential.
- ✓ When driving on snow or ice, drive smoothly and avoid harsh acceleration, braking or steering. In wet, icy or snowy conditions braking times and distances will be increased so allow more time and space to stop. Ensure your tyres are legal with 1.6mm minimum tread. Also consider buying winter tyres.

If you get into trouble, stay with your vehicle if possible until help arrives or give local police the details if you have to abandon it.

Police non-emergency contact: 101 • In an emergency: 999 • www.n-somerset.gov.uk/winterroads



When to recycle in severe weather

Icy spells and freezing winter conditions can cause serious disruption to recycling and waste collections.



North Somerset Council tries to maintain usual services during bad weather but sometimes delays do happen when roads are icy and driving conditions are hazardous.

Decisions to delay the service are never taken lightly but the safety of crews, pedestrians and other road users must be taken into account.

The council's contractor Biffa has contingency and recovery plans in place to ensure it is prepared for any adverse weather and residents can help crews during a big freeze by placing their containers out at the right time.

Waste

Put your wheelie bin or grey council-issued bags out on your normal collection day. If it's not collected, then leave it out and crews will come back as soon as possible.

Food caddy and recycling boxes

Continue to put these out on your normal collection day. If they are not collected by 7pm, take them back in and put them out again the following week on your normal collection day.

Garden waste

Put your garden waste bins out on your usual collection day. If they are not taken, take them back in and put them out again the following month on your scheduled day.

Extra vehicles may be used over Christmas to collect certain types of recycling, such as cardboard or glass.

How you can help

- Put your recycling and waste out by 7am on your usual collection day. Check www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar
- If collections are missed from a whole street, there's no need for residents to individually report it as it will already be logged
- Check the council's website or new recycling and waste social media accounts
- Separate recycling into individual materials within your box to help crews collect items quickly and more efficiently
- Remember to help neighbours who may have difficulties.



 Search for North Somerset Recycling and Waste
 @ns_recycling
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recycling



Prepare well for winter cycling

Commuting by bicycle needn't be a fair weather activity if you prepare well and take a few precautions.

Winter weather and dark mornings and evenings might put you off but with a few simple steps, cycling can be enjoyed all year round.



Maintenance

- ✓ check your bike more frequently in winter, particularly the chain, gears, brakes, tyres and wheel rims
- ✓ stopping distances increase in the wet, while grit and dirt mean the brakes stick or wear down more quickly. Keep an eye on them and replace if necessary
- ✓ wider tyres at lower pressures provide more contact for added grip and safety. Mudguards will help protect from water and dirt thrown up from the road
- ✓ shorter days, darker nights and poor weather conditions mean you'll need good lights – rechargeable LED models get better and less expensive every year. Keep them fully charged and your reflectors clean. Consider accessories, such as pannier bags, with extra reflective materials.

Clothing

- ✓ bright clothing, ideally with reflective materials, will help cyclists stand out in the dark or rain.
- ✓ invest in good waterproof clothing, from helmet to shoe covers, to keep you warm and dry. Look for breathable materials to avoid getting too hot. Bear in mind how easy they are to take on and off on showery days, though. Warm, waterproof gloves are essential.
- ✓ organisations which need drying facilities can apply for a sustainable travel match-funded grant from North Somerset Council. Email sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk for more information.

Winter riding

- ✓ check weather forecasts before you travel and adapt your route in icy weather
- ✓ a general weather forecast does not provide road surface temperatures and black ice could catch even experienced winter cyclists unawares. Instead, real-time road temperatures which are taken from weather stations in Clevedon, Churchill and the A38 near Bristol Airport are available from www.trafficweather.info
- ✓ ride in groups if possible – a cycling buddy can help if you are daunted about getting a puncture
- ✓ always ride assertively and claim your road space. This will help you avoid car doors, manhole covers, puddles and road debris
- ✓ motorists may have misty windscreens or be dazzled by sun glare so ensure you are visible
- ✓ The Highways Code clearly sets out rules for cyclists including equipment, clothing using lanes and crossing. Visit www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highways-code (rules 59-82).



Stay warm at home this winter



Homeowners know that there is always something which needs fixing, replacing or installing but this often involves a great deal of expense.

North Somerset Council has teamed up with not-for-profit lender Wessex Resolutions Community Interest Company to offer local people low-rate loans to replace their broken or faulty gas boiler.

The interest on this new boiler loan is fixed at 4.3 per cent APR and repayments are always based on the applicant's individual circumstances, meaning you can spread the cost of a new boiler but gain the benefits right away.

Claire Baxter, the council's private sector housing manager, said: "Everyone in North Somerset deserves to be warm this winter.

"Wessex Resolutions CIC is a not-for-profit ethical lender working with many local councils across the south west and, unlike some loan companies, have a fixed low interest rate.

"If you or someone in your family is cold at home because they are living with a broken or faulty boiler, please get in touch with Wessex to find out more about our flexible boiler loans."

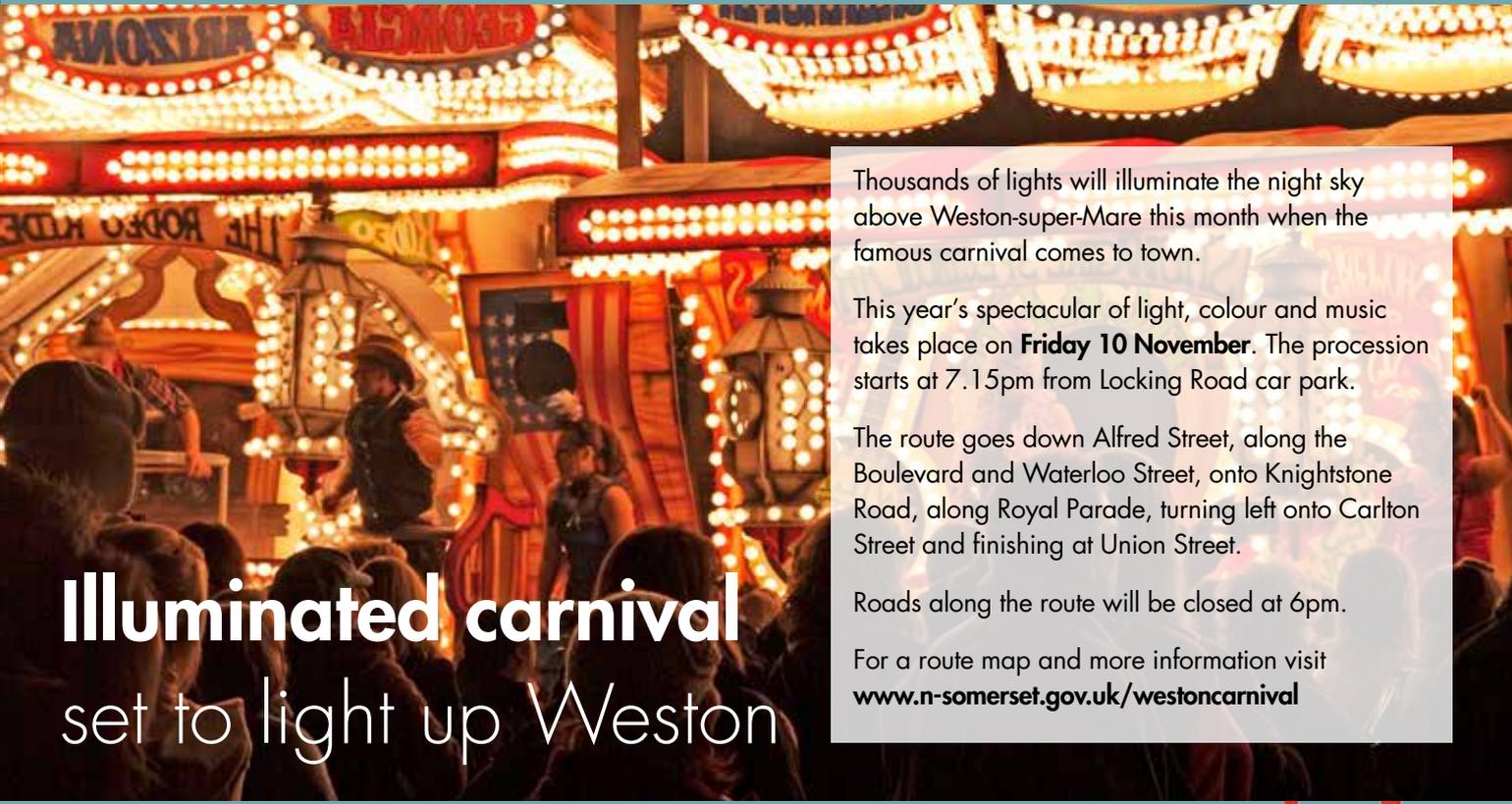
Three simple steps to your new boiler



Typical example of repayments:

Amount borrowed	Number of monthly repayments	Amount of monthly repayments	Total amount payable
£2,000	60	£36.83	£2,210.04
£2,000	120	£20.25	£2,429.94
£2,500	60	£46.04	£2,762.54
£2,500	120	£25.31	£3,027.41

For more information, contact Wessex Resolutions on 01823 461 099, email enquiries@wrcic.org.uk or visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/boiler



Illuminated carnival set to light up Weston

Thousands of lights will illuminate the night sky above Weston-super-Mare this month when the famous carnival comes to town.

This year's spectacular of light, colour and music takes place on **Friday 10 November**. The procession starts at 7.15pm from Locking Road car park.

The route goes down Alfred Street, along the Boulevard and Waterloo Street, onto Knightstone Road, along Royal Parade, turning left onto Carlton Street and finishing at Union Street.

Roads along the route will be closed at 6pm.

For a route map and more information visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/westoncarnival

Christmas countdown across North Somerset

Towns across North Somerset will soon be celebrating the start of the festive season.



Clevedon

Take a look round traditional market stalls, enjoy fairground rides and seasonal entertainment at Clevedon's St Nicholas Fayre.

The annual street market, along Hill Road and Alexandra Road, runs from 5pm to 9pm on **Thursday 7 December**.

It is one of the town's most popular events and includes a hog roast, a ski slope and Santa's grotto.

www.stnicholasfayre.co.uk

Nailsea

Donkeys dressed as reindeers, a skate rink, lantern parade and carol singers will all be providing entertainment during Nailsea's Community Christmas Fair.

The event runs from 5pm to 8pm, on **Friday 1 December** and starts with the Christmas lights switch-on, followed by lots of family fun.

The skate rink is open 1pm to 8pm and tickets can be pre-booked online, £4 for a half-hour session.

www.nailseapeople.com/nailsea-community-christmas-fair

Portishead

Two popular events will be held for Portishead people in the run-up to Christmas.

The popular lights switch-on ceremony takes place in the Precinct, High Street, from 6.10pm on **Monday 27 November**.

Many shops will then stay open late and market stalls will line the High Street during the Victorian Fayre, from 6.30pm on **Friday 15 December**.

www.portisheadchristmaslights.co.uk

Weston-super-Mare

Live music from Lipinski and Sarah Eden-Winn will entertain crowds during Weston's official lights switch-on ceremony.

The event runs from 5pm to 7.30pm on **Thursday 30 November** in the Italian Gardens.

Late night shopping until 9pm then takes place every Thursday night until 21 December.

Free parking is available in the Sovereign Centre for vehicles arriving after 3pm.

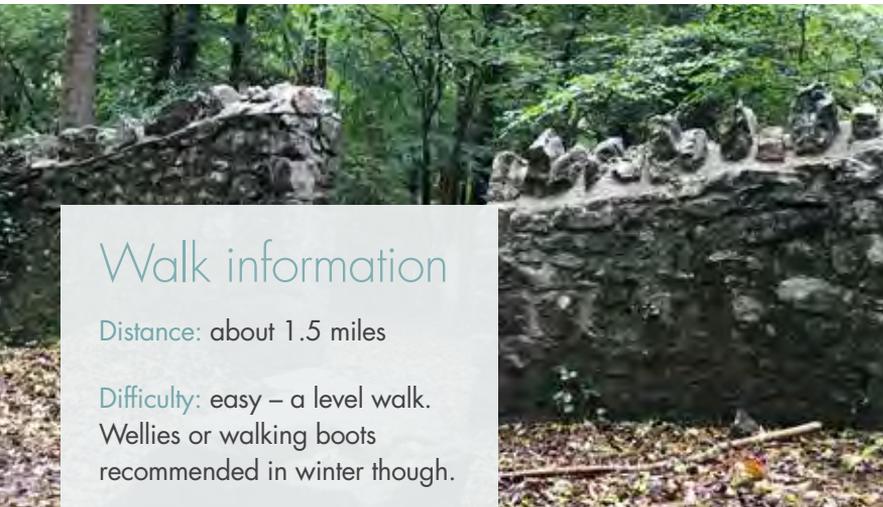


Wander through tranquil woodland

A tranquil wilderness on the edge of North Somerset has been an important spot to local people for hundreds of years.

Leigh Woods National Nature Reserve has ancient woodland and is home to many unusual plants and animals.

Whether you want a peaceful walk to remote parts of the woods, or a short family stroll, there are numerous paths to follow.



Walk information

Distance: about 1.5 miles

Difficulty: easy – a level walk. Wellies or walking boots recommended in winter though.

Duration: the circuit can be completed in about 45 mins.

Map: OS Explorer 154

How to get there

By car: Enter Leigh Woods off the A369 in Abbots Leigh. The entrance is marked with a Forestry Commission sign, just before the gateway arch (if coming from the M5). Drive down the tree lined Coronation Avenue until you reach the parking bays. If these spaces are full, continue on to the main car park.

By bus: First service **X3** and **X4**.

Leigh Woods, which sits alongside Avon Gorge, has long been recognised for its rich, natural environment.

It contains a hillfort, Stokeleigh Camp, which is thought to have been occupied from the third century BC, as well as limestone and celestine quarries which were worked in the 18th and 19th centuries.

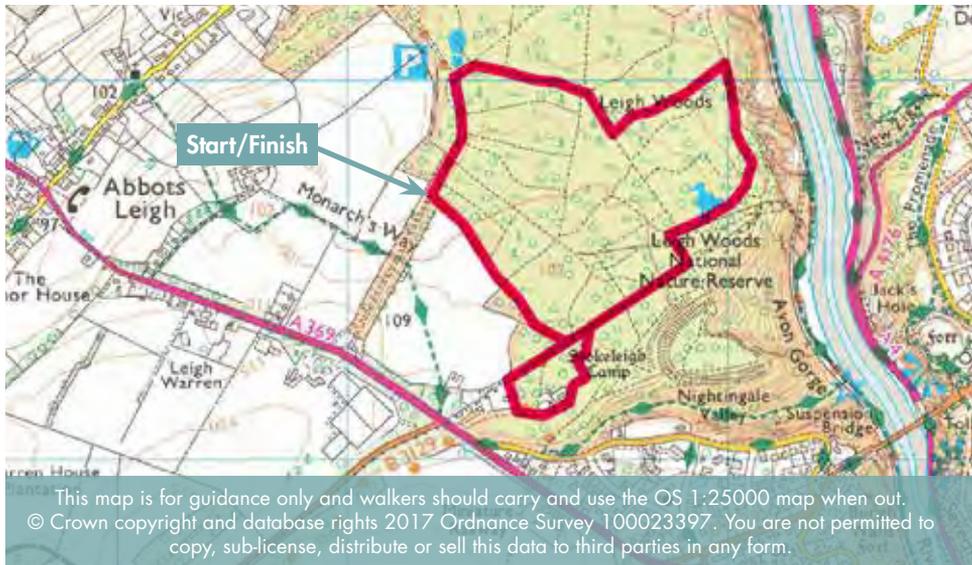
Part of the land was bought by George Wills, of Bristol's Imperial Tobacco, after it was threatened with development. He donated it to the National Trust in 1909 to preserve it as a special place for the public. Other areas of the nature reserve have now been taken over by the Forestry Commission.

During winter, rangers are on site doing works such as veteran tree management, brush cutting brambles, pond clearance, and restoration of wood pasture.

To get around the woodland you can either follow the coloured waymarked routes, or use the network of paths to explore further.

The majority of this walk follows the purple trail through the woods, an all-ability trail suitable for prams and wheelchairs.

From the parking laybys, take the first track at the end of Coronation Avenue which leads into the woods (signposted to Clifton).



This map is for guidance only and walkers should carry and use the OS 1:25000 map when out. © Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100023397. You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell this data to third parties in any form.



Keep following this wide path and you will come to the stone boundary wall, built in 1813 to mark the parish boundary between Long Ashton and Abbots Leigh.

Go through the gap in the wall and then turn right, following the signpost to North Road. The boundary wall is now on your right.

This leads to the National Trust office, a small building full of information about everything you can see and do in Leigh Woods.

In front of the office is a carved wooden sofa, and tables and chairs if you want to stop for a picnic. There is also a compost toilet here.

From the office, go past the rangers' buildings and take the wide path into the woods. This leads to a natural play area, a place for dedicated den-building and fallen logs to climb on.

Exit the play area on the opposite side, and follow the purple marker to take the smaller path on your left. This takes you back to the boundary wall.

If you head left just a short way, you'll see more dens and a big swing between two trees.

Return to the boundary wall and then follow it down, with the wall on your left.

After a short while you will see a wooden gate. Go through here and then follow the purple marker to the right, around the curved path, and then onwards through the trees.

Turn right at the junction and continue on. There are regular benches if you need to stop and rest your feet.

You will soon be able to catch glimpses of the gorge and River Avon below through the trees.

Shortly afterwards, take the left-hand turn, following the purple marker again. From here, you can follow the purple markers back towards the main car park, and up to the laybys where you parked.



LOCAL EVENTS

November

Saturday 11

Trinity Singers joint concert with Churchill Academy Chamber Choir 7pm, All Saints' Church, All Saints Road, Weston. Choral music across 400 years. Tickets £5.50 to £8.50, from www.positickets.co.uk or on the door.

Thursday 16

North Somerset Rural Business Forum 7.30pm, Mendip Spring Golf Club, Congresbury. Membership £25. Non-members £10 per meeting, including a light supper. richard@cooksleyandco.org

Saturday 18

Charity Christmas Fayre 10am-12.30pm, St Francis Church Hall, Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea. Organised by NW Somerset Branch of Parkinson's UK. Stalls, coffee and cakes, free entry and parking. 01275 855 524

Nailsea Choral Society's November Concert 7.30pm, Nailsea School Auditorium.

German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. £12 (£5 for under 18s), from www.nailseachoral.org. uk or choir members.

Tuesday 21

Clevedon Music Club presents Rockhampton Wind Quintet 7.30pm, Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Road. £9 on the door.

Friday 24

West Mendip Orchestra Winter Concert 7.45pm, Friends Meeting House, Sidcot. £10 on the door (concessions £8, students £2). www.west-mendip-orchestra.org.uk

Saturday 25

Annual art exhibition by Lynne Castell's Art Groups 10am-4pm, St. Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Road, Weston. Paintings, drawings, greetings cards, refreshments. Raising funds for the church.

Classics from the last 50 years by Weston Choral Society 7.30 pm All Saints' Church, All Saints' Road, Weston. Tickets £11 on the door.

Nailsea Concert Orchestra 7.30pm, St Francis of Assisi RC Church, Ash Hayes Road, Nailsea. Tickets from Nailsea Music Shop or on the door.

December

Sunday 3

Richard Lennox playing the Christie Theatre Pipe Organ 2pm, Curzon Cinema, Clevedon. Tickets £10 or £9 concessions from 01275 871 000

Saturday 9

Costanzi Consort chamber choir concert La Nativité 7.30pm, St Mary's Church, Yatton. Directed by Peter Leech. Adults £12, students £5, under 16s free from www.costanziconsort.org.uk

Portishead Choral Society's winter concert 7.45pm, Gordano School Hall. Carols included. www.portisheadchoral.co.uk

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Monday

Weston Monday Art Group (E) 10am, St Saviour's Church Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 514 127

Winscombe District U3A Coffee Morning (1, except Aug) 10am, Winscombe Community Centre. £1 inc refreshments.

Tots1 (E, term time only) 10-11.30am, Bristol Road Baptist Church, Southside, Weston-super-Mare

Winscombe Probud Club (2 and 4) 10.30am, Winscombe Community Centre. 01278 769 248

Duplicate bridge (E)(and Thurs, Fri, Sat) 1.30pm, 21 Montpelier, Weston. 01934 633 530

Kewstoke Arts and Crafts Group (E) 2pm, Village Hall. 01934 628 309



Georgian Club for over 60s (E) 2pm, St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close. 01934 510 953

NHS Retirement Fellowship (2) 2pm, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall, Worle. 01934 417 850

Winscombe District U3A (3, except Aug and Dec) 2pm, Winscombe Community Centre. £1.50 members, £2 non-members.

Yatton Art Group (E) 2.15pm, Village Hall. 01934 249 907

Clevedon Mixed Leisure Club (1 and 3) 2.30pm, Consti Club, Kenn Road. 01275 875 179

Weston Flower Arrangement Society (4) 2.30pm, St Georges Hall. 01934 812 177

Whist drive-in, Portishead (E) 7.15pm. 01275 844 290

Clevedon Lions Club (3) 7.15pm, Walton Hotel. 01275 878 983

Weston Amateur Radio Society (E) 7.30pm, Weston Social Club, Drove Rd. 01761 221206

Weston Quilters (1) 7.30pm, United Reform Church, Waterloo Street. 01934 834278

Worle Lions (2) 8pm, Windsor Castle pub. www.worlelions.co.uk, 08458 339 862

Lions Club of Portishead (2) 8pm, Clarence House, High Street. 08432 895 330

Nailsea Lions Club (2) 8pm, Grove Sports Centre. 01275 855 046

Yatton WI (2) 8pm, Yatton Village Hall. 01934 834 796

Royal British Legion (Portishead) (3) 8pm, Clarence House, High Street. 01934 251 468

Tuesdays

Weston U3A (E) 10am, Friends Meeting House, High Street

Mendip Art Group (E) 10am, Banwell Village Hall. 01934 645 885

North Somerset Botanical Painting Society (E) 10am, Brackenwood Garden Centre, Abbots Leigh. 01934 832 952

Age UK free advice sessions (1) 10am-noon, Portishead Library, (2) 10am-noon, Nailsea Library, (4) 9.30am-12.30pm, Winscombe GP surgery. 0845 643 4621

Coffee and Chat (E, also Saturdays) 10am-noon, Portishead High Street Methodist Church, Portishead. 01275 844 917

Friends of Trendlewood Park (3)(and first Sun) 10am-1pm, Trendlewood Park, Nailsea. www.friendsoftrendlewoodpark.org.uk, 07879 607 492

Western Active Stroke Group (E) 10am-noon, Worlebury Golf Club, Monks Hill, Weston-super-Mare. (also last Tues of month, skittles at the Ebdon Arms, Lilac Way. Wick St Lawrence) 01934 519 266

Coffee Stop drop-in coffee morning (E) 10.30am, Milton Baptist Church, Baytree Rd. 01934 641 574

Kewstoke's Tiny Teds Toddler Group (E) 10.30am-noon, St Paul's Church Hall. £2 per family. 07980 384 034

Clevedon Probud Club 1974 (1)(3) 10.30am, Community Centre, Princes Rd. 01275 876 297

Clevedon Probud 2008 Club (2)(4) 10.30am, Clevedon Community Centre, Princes Rd. 01275 874 631

Multicultural Friendship Association (E) 1-3pm, Weston Room, Badger Centre, Wadham Street, Weston. 07587 335 963, www.mfa-wsm.org.uk

Lynne Castell Watercolours Art Group (E) 1-4pm, in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Room, Baytree Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Portishead Rotary Club Memory Café (1)(3) 2.15pm, Jubilee Hall, Slade Rd. 01275 871 197

Catenian Association (1) 7:15pm, Cadbury House Hotel, Congresbury. For Catholic men. 01275 877 180

Weston Scrabble Club (E) 7pm, St Saviour's Church Hall, Locking Rd. 01934 620 948

Rotary Club of Portishead (E) 7.30pm, Clarence House, High Street. 01275 845 509

A1 Camera Club (E) 7.30pm, St Georges Community Centre, Willow Close. 01934 521 780

Hutton Ladies Group (1) 7.30pm, Village Hall. 01934 623 450

Portishead Quilters (1)(3) 7.30pm, Redcliffe Hall. 01275 848 467

North Somerset Vintage Tractor Club (1) Redhill Village Club. 01275 474 649

Weston Railway Society (1) Function Room, Conservative Club. 01934 628 289

Clevedon Art Club (2) 7.30pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Castle Rd. 01275 879 556

Women of Weston Women's Institute (3) 7.30pm, Vintage Community Church, Hughenden Road, Weston. WeAreWOWWI@gmail.com

Weston Archaeological and Natural History Society (2) 7.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Rd. 01934 620 785

Portishead Townswomen's Guild (4) 7.30pm, Folk Hall. 01275 847 271

Clevedon and District Model Boat Club (4) 7.30pm, The Salthouse (also sail on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10am)

Nailsea and District Model Railway Club (E) 7.30pm, Clevedon Craft Centre, off Moor Lane. www.nailsea-district-mrc.co.uk

Clevedon and District Flower Club (4) 7.30pm, Community Centre, Princes Rd. 01275 859 797

Nailsea Miners Rotary Club (E) 7.45pm, George pub, Backwell. 01275 854 641





Weston and Mendip Advanced Motorists' Group (3) 8pm, Village Hall, Crookes Lane, Kewstoke

North Somerset Modellers' Society (2) 8.30pm, Windsor Castle pub, Milton. 01934 417 907

Wednesdays

Lynne Castell Oils, Acrylics, Pastels Art Group (E) 10am-1pm, in Greenways Farm, Lyefield Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Age UK free advice sessions (1)(2)(3) 10am-noon, Town Hall, Weston-super-Mare, (4) 10am-noon, Cadbury Garden Centre. 0845 643 4621

Yeo Valley Probus Club (1)(3) 10.30am, Backwell Bowls Club. 01275 857 769

Backwell Probus Club (2)(4) 10.30am, West Backwell Bowling Club. For retired men, to listen to talks on a wide variety of topics. 01275 462 627

North Somerset Over 50s Club (4) 11am, Clevedon Community Centre. 01275 842 282

Gordano Probus Club (2) 12.30pm, Clarence House, High Street, Portishead. 01275 398 706

Portishead Probus Club 73 (3) noon-3pm, Clarence House Social Club, High Street. 01275 814 249 / 07715 572 106

Failand Art Group (E) 1.30pm, Village Hall, Oxhouse Lane. Jimpeck1502@gmail.com

Banwell Bridge Club (E) 1.30pm, Village Hall. 01934 522 405

Friends of Weston-super-Mare Museum (3) 1.30pm, Blakehay Café, Wadhams Street, Weston. Meetings free to members. Small fee to visitors.

Woodspring Scrabble Club (E) 2pm, United Reformed Church, Weston. 01934 815 358

Nailsea Scrabble Club (E) 2pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre. 01275 464 864

Worle Friendship Club (E) 2pm, Worle Community Centre, Lawrence Rd. 01934 510 863

Portbury Over Sixties Club (1) 2pm, Portbury Village Hall

Backwell Garden Club (3) 2pm, WI Hall. 01275 464 236

Portishead Senior Citizens Forum (3) 2.15pm, Folk Hall. 01275 843 678

Clevedon Senior Citizens' Forum (L) 2.30pm, Masonic Hall, Albert Road. 01275 874 296

Weston Amnesty International (2) 6.30pm, Worlebury Golf Club, Weston. 01934 419 014

Weston and Worle Bridge Club (E) 7pm (and Fri 2pm), St Joseph's Church Hall, Camp Rd. 01934 510 027

Weston Sea Cadets (E) (and Fri), 7pm, Cadet HQ, Sunnyside Rd North. 11 to 18-year-olds.

Portishead Spiritualist Association (E) 7.30pm, Brampton Way Playgroup Hall, Brampton Way. 01275 843 744

Weston Moose Social Evening (L) 7pm, Ebdon Arms, Wick St Lawrence. Skittles, darts and friendly conversation. 01934 814 042 or 41littont@iscali.co.uk

Wrington Vale Rotary Club (E) 7.30pm, Burrington Inn, Burrington Combe. 01934 844 214

Clevedon Yeo Rotary Club (1 and 3) 7.30pm, Walton Park Hotel, Wellington Terrace, Clevedon. 01275 218 987 www.clevedonyeorotary.org.uk

Nailsea and District Horticultural Society (2) 7.30pm, United Reformed Church Hall, Stockway North. £2 for members, £3 for visitors. 01275 855 342

Nailsea Stamp and Postcard Club (2) 7.30pm, Mizzymead Recreation Centre. 01275 855 875

Nailsea and Backwell Townswomen's Guild (2) 7.30pm, Methodist Hall. 01275 810 579

Worle WI (3) 7.30pm, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishop's Avenue. 01934 511 329

Portishead Floral Art Society (3) 7.30pm, Somerset Hall. £5 for visitors. 01275 374 201

Royal British Legion (Clevedon) (3) 7.30pm, Community Centre, Prince's Rd. 01275 879 816

Gordano Valley 41 Club (4) 7.30pm, Royal Inn, Portishead. 01275 817 258

Moorhens WI (1) 8pm, Locking Castle Church. moorhensWI@gmail.com

Thursdays

Community Coffee Morning (E) 10am, Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Rd. 01934 424 550

Probus Club WSM (1)(3) 10am, Worlebury Golf Club, Worlebury. 01934 514 857 www.probusweston.com

Probus Club of Nailsea (2)(4) 10am, Mizzymead Social Club. 01275 852 515

Probus Milton (2)(4) 10am, Milton Methodist Church. 01934 525 476

Weston Twins and More (4) 10am, Kids Hut, Winter Gardens. 01934 528 348

Civil Service Retirement Fellowship (1)(3) 10am, Friends Meeting House, High Street, Weston. 01275 858 766

Copse Coffee drop-in coffee morning (A) 10.30am, Cope Rd Chapel, Seavale Rd, Clevedon. 01275 798 667 / 07873 180 135

Notable Club (E) Uphill Scouts Hall. 07845 220 349

Social duplicate bridge (E) 2pm, Vintage Community Church Hall, Hughenden Road, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 627 751

Winscombe Bridge Club 2pm. 10-week course starting Thurs 29 Sept. £45. Call 01275 540 604 www.winbridge.org.uk

Weston and District National Trust Association (2) (and fourth Fri) 2.15pm, Corpus Christi Church Hall, Weston. 01934 633 593

Yatton Knitting Club (E) 5.45-6.45pm, Yatton Library. All abilities welcome. Free tea or coffee. 01934 426 100

Vintage Hornby Railway Collectors (4) 6pm, Scout Hut, Totterdown Rd Weston. 01934 413 053

Loves Book Club (1) 6.30pm, Loves Cafe, 9 West Street. 01934 645 672

Vegetarian Cookery Club (A) 6.45pm, Church Hall, 500 Locking Rd, Worle. 01934 628 860

Weston Woodturning Circle (3) 7pm, Weston Football Club, Winterstoke Rd. 01934 510 862

Weston Chess Club (E) 7.30pm, Weston-super-Mare Conservative Club, 24-26 Alexandra Parade. 01934 643 171

Weston-super-Mare RSPB (1, Sept-April) 7.30pm, St. Paul's Church Hall, Walliscote Rd. 01934 835 208

Weston-super-Mare Horticultural Society (2) 7.30pm, St Peter's Church Hall, Baytree Rd. **Banwell WI** (2) 7.30pm, Village Hall, Banwell. Visitors welcome. 01934 253 761

Avon Wildlife Trust Long Ashton (3) 7.30pm, Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill. 01275 392 690

North Somerset Rural Business Forum (3) 7.30pm, Winford Manor Hotel. £7.50 for non members. 01531 820 307

Royal British Legion (Nailsea) (3) 7.30pm, Grove Sports Club. 01275 856 879

Bristol Sailors Meeting (4) 8pm, British Legion Hall, Long Ashton.



Fridays

Good Companions Senior Citizens Club (E) 9am, Somerset Hall, Portishead. 01275 848 059

Gadget Club (1) 10-11am, Town Hall library, Weston-super-Mare. 01934 426 010

Lynne Castell Calligraphy Group (A) 10am-1pm, in another Weston venue. 01934 628 760 or www.lynnecastell.f2s.com

Mead Vale Friendship Club (over 50s) (E) 2pm, Community Hall, Worle. 01934 510 672

Portishead Folk Hall Senior Citizens Club (E) 2pm, Folk Hall, High Street, Portishead. £1, inc refreshments and entertainment. 01275 390 350

50-plus club (E) 2-4pm, Castle Batch Community Centre, Bishop Avenue, Worle.

Scrabble Club (E) 2.15-5pm, Clevedon Conservative Club. £1 per session. 01275 342 974

Long Ashton Bowling Club (E - May-Sept) 6pm, Community Centre, Keedwell Hill. 01275 853 885

Nailsea Computer Club (1)(3)(4) 7pm, Southfield Church, Southfield Close, Nailsea. 01275 852 521

North Somerset Quilters (3) 7.30pm, WI Hall, Station Rd, Backwell. 01275 463 119

Portishead Stamp Club (4) 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, St Mary's Rd. 01275 374 738

Banwell Society of Archaeology (2) 7.30pm, Banwell Village Hall.

Saturdays

Hutton Lace and Craft Group (2) 9.30am, Village Hall. 01934 822 871

CREWS Backstage Support (E) 10am-1pm, The Stables, Princes Rd, Clevedon. 07824 821 814

Portbury Community Café (1) 10am, Village Hall. 07971 501 374

YABEEP Natural Beekeeping Group (2) 10.30am, Claverham Village Hall, Bishops Rd. YABEEP@gmail.com

Avon Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers (2) 10.30am, Bowls Pavilion, Long Ashton Community Centre. 01275 464 526

Parkinson's UK North West Somerset branch meeting (2) 10.30am-12.15pm, St Francis Church Hall, Nailsea. 01275 855 524

Weston-super-Mare & District Family History (E) 2pm-3.30pm, Weston library, Town Hall, Walliscote Grove Rd.

Sundays

Games and other activities group for over 50s (3) 2-4pm, The Lawnside, Church Lane, Backwell. 01934 888 803

Worle Lions Quiz (1) Windsor Castle pub. Entry £2.50 inc food and cash prize. www.worlelions.co.uk 08458 339 862



Have your say on

plans for new homes and major transport improvements

Residents in North Somerset now have another chance to comment on ambitious proposals for new homes and major transport improvements in the area.



The draft Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) sets out plans for housing, employment and infrastructure over the next two decades and identifies an additional 44,000 homes needed across the West of England region by 2036.

North Somerset Council has been working with the West of England authorities – South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol – to co-ordinate where these should go.

The council previously consulted on initial proposals in 2015 and likely options in 2016 and now residents can give their views on the latest draft.

North Somerset proposals include...

- building four new communities totalling about 8,700 homes - including two new garden villages at Churchill and Banwell and extensions to Backwell and Nailsea
- a range of transport improvements - including a new bypass for Banwell as the initial phase of a wider link to the A38, and a new motorway junction to the south of Weston-super-Mare
- potentially a new road from the M5 to Nailsea and Backwell
- easier access to Bristol airport
- a MetroBus scheme for Nailsea to enhance public transport options
- new primary and secondary schools
- new job opportunities
- protection for North Somerset's Green Belt.



North Somerset Council is already maximising development of brownfield land, including about 1,000 new homes in Weston-super-Mare, but the scale of development needed now means that greenfield sites must be identified too.

The JSP sets out the broad locations for these new communities with finer details being progressed through each council's new local plan.

These local plans must also set out details of a number of smaller sites – which will amount to about 1,000 additional homes in North Somerset.

Work is under way on North Somerset's new local plan and a draft will be published for consultation in the spring.

Proposals for North Somerset's four key development sites include:

Nailsea

- about 3,300 new homes to the south west of the town
- a local centre which complements Nailsea town centre
- MetroBus connection to Bristol and improved Nailsea/Backwell station
- new employment which is well connected to the local centre and transport hubs
- a new secondary school and primary schools
- protection and enhancement of local heritage features and the greater and lesser horseshoe bat habitat
- careful management of surface water run-off from the new development to safeguard ecological habitats on Tickenham Moor
- better highway connection to the A370 near Backwell and at the Long Ashton bypass
- potentially a new road connection to junction 20 of the M5 and Clevedon



Churchill

- a new garden village of about 2,800 homes to the north west of Churchill and Langford, with its own character and sense of identity, sensitively designed in relation to the local environment
- employment land well-related to the new transport infrastructure
- a green infrastructure network, including open space surrounding the new development to safeguard the identity of existing villages
- a new local centre with a range of facilities
- new foot and cycle links, including access to the Strawberry Line
- a new link to A38 with improved junction at A368/A38
- primary schools
- protection and enhancement of the greater and lesser horseshoe bat habitat
- bus service improvements to Bristol and Weston-super-Mare

Banwell

- a new garden village of about 1,900 homes to the north of Banwell, with its own character and sense of identity, sensitively designed in relation to the local environment
- a new junction on the M5 and link to A38, including the Banwell bypass
- new employment which is well connected to the local centre and transport routes
- a local centre to complement Banwell's existing centre
- bus improvements, with the potential for improved connections to Weston-super-Mare and Bristol, cycle and footpath links to Banwell and Weston-super-Mare
- up to two primary schools and a secondary school
- protection and enhancement of the greater and lesser horseshoe bat habitat

Backwell

- about 700 new homes to the west of the village
- rail station improvements and a new route between the A370 and Nailsea, and a MetroBus connection to Bristol
- a possible new primary school
- protection of heritage features including historic Chelvey and West Town Conservation Area
- protection and enhancement of the greater and lesser horseshoe bat habitat

Subject to approval of the JSP draft, consultation for the JSP opens on **Wednesday 22 November** for seven weeks, closing on **10 January 2018**. See proposals and details and have your say at www.jointplanningwfoe.org.uk

All comments will be passed to an independent inspector who will examine the plan in summer 2018.

Consultation opens about passenger trains from Portishead

Proposals to re-launch passenger trains from Portishead are moving forward and a public consultation is now being held on the next stage of planning.

North Somerset Council is working with the other West of England councils on an ambitious programme of rail improvements over the next 10 years, known as MetroWest.

Phase One includes re-opening the Portishead branch line with new stations at Portishead and Pill, with a new passenger train service to Bristol Temple Meads which also stops at Parson Street and Bedminster stations.

In March this year the scheme's outline design for a half-hourly service was completed, along with an updated capital cost estimate.

The amount of work required for this frequency made the scheme unaffordable so it was decided to provide an initial hourly service with the possibility of some additional peak time trains.

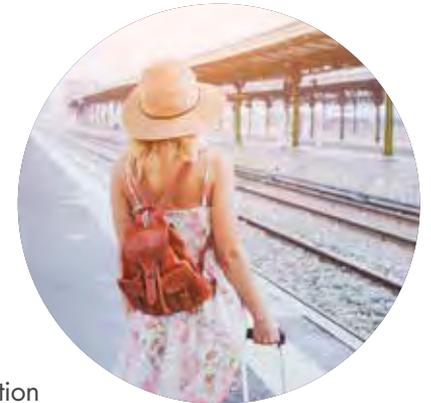
This reduces the amount of infrastructure works required, which in turn lessens the impact on the sensitive environmental areas, while still meeting modern safety standards.

Re-opening the disused section between Portishead and Pill requires planning consent through a Development Consent Order and a formal consultation is now under way.

The rest of the scheme won't need consent as it is already within the existing operational railway.

Progress so far:

- outline design for the road changes required has been completed
- outline design for the railway works is under way
- environmental assessment has started for both the disused section of railway and existing operational freight railway which passes through Avon Gorge, which has multiple environmental protection designations
- an initial assessment of the environmental impact, with the proposed mitigations, has been made in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report - available at www.travelwest.info/metrowest
- strategically important parcels of land have been purchased, with negotiations on others progressing
- continued talks with train operators and the Department for Transport to secure the train services, including the rolling stock and operational resources
- discussions continue with affected parties, such as local land and property owners, utility companies, statutory bodies, government agencies, local interest groups and wider stakeholders
- development of the business case continues, which continues to show the scheme's 'value for money' remains high, providing £3 of benefits for every £1 invested.



Timescales

Autumn 2017 – formal consultation

Spring 2018 – submit Development Consent Order

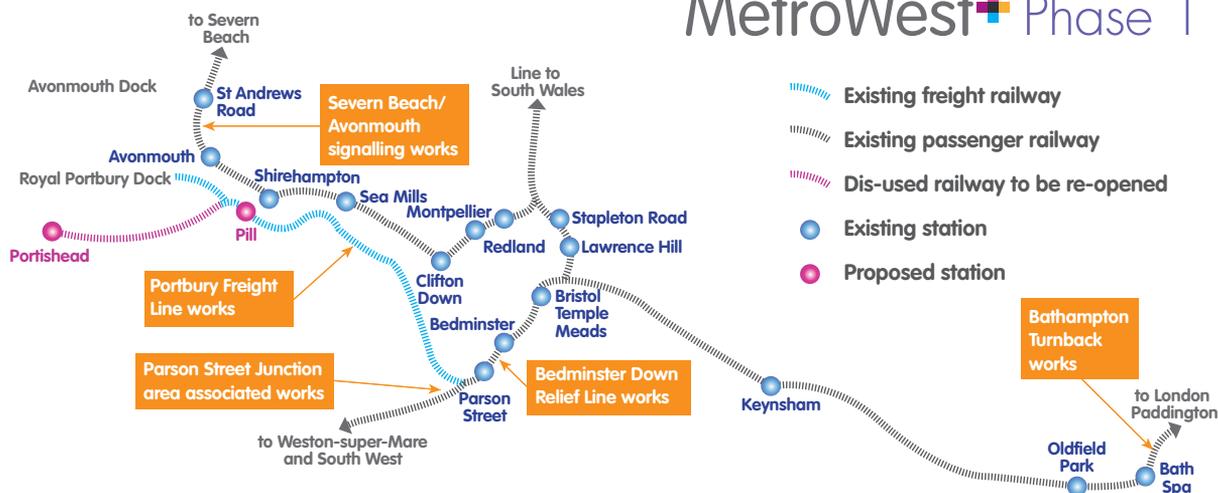
Autumn 2018 – examination in public

Autumn 2019 – decision by Secretary of State

Winter 2019 – sign off planning conditions and mobilise contractors

Spring 2020 – start construction of principal works

MetroWest Phase 1



Have your say Six exhibitions will be held in November for people to find out more and have their say:

Friday 10 – 12.30-7.30pm, Somerset Hall, The Precinct, Portishead

Wednesday 15 – 12.30-7.30pm, Engine Shed, Station Approach, Bristol

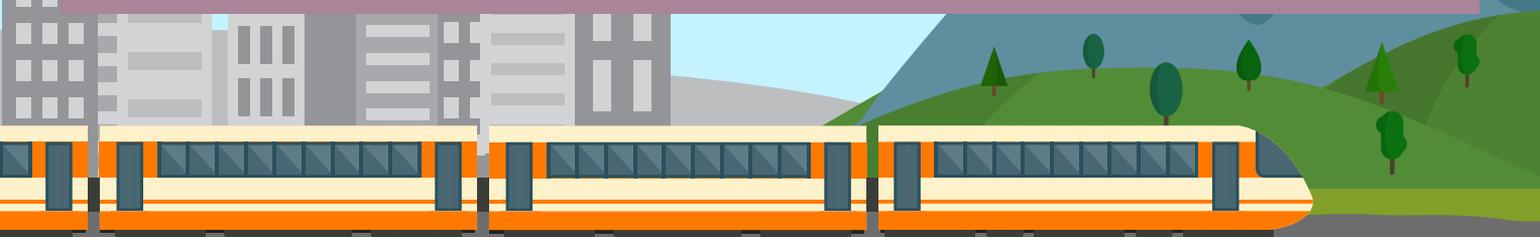
Tuesday 21 – 1.30-7.30pm, Trinity Anglican Primary School (community hall), Marjoram Way, Portishead

Wednesday 22 – 12.30-7.30pm, Ashton Gate Stadium, Ashton Road, Bristol

Thursday 23 – 3.30-7.30pm, Long Ashton Community Centre, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton

Friday 24 – 12.30-7.30pm, Community Centre, Church Place, Pill

Following the exhibitions, plans will be on display for a week from Monday 27 November, from 9am-5pm, at the Citizen Service Point, 100 Temple Street, Bristol.



MetroWest Phase One will...

- increase the UK national rail network (passenger trains) by 14km
- bring an additional 50,000 people within the immediate catchment of the rail network
- include work to four tunnels, three viaducts, 12 under-bridges, 14 over-bridges and 3km of retaining walls
- run through some environmentally-important areas such as Avon Gorge, a Special Area of Conservation
- enable passengers to get from Portishead to Bristol Temple Meads in about 23 minutes
- have a line speed of 75mph between Portishead and Pill, and 30mph from Pill to Bower Ashton
- have modern diesel trains, with three carriages initially with up to 270 seats
- include 16km of railway works and 1km of highway works.



For more information and how you can take part in the consultation, visit www.travelwest.info/metrowest • Responses needed by Monday 4 December.

Joint libraries and children's centres closing the generation gap



The generation gap is closing in North Somerset following the successful merger of three libraries and children's centres.

Combining both library and children's centre services on the same site is part of North Somerset Council's Community Access Review, a major review of buildings and services run by the council, with particular focus on its libraries and children's centres.

As a result, three new community hubs opened in August and are proving popular with visitors of all ages.

Worle Library and Children's Centre was the first joint building to open, when the library moved into Milton and Old Worle Children's Centre in Mendip Avenue, just off Worle High Street.

One recent visitor said: "Worle as a community should embrace young and old under the same roof. All generations have lots to offer each other. Experience, fun, laughter and tolerance."

"We have really enjoyed our visit. The outdoor space is fantastic and children of all ages played together."

In Pill, work to refurbish the library building at Crockerne House in Underbanks involved remodelling the inside of the building and providing an outside play area to enable the children's centre to move in.

In Yatton, alterations were made to the library in the High Street to enable Yatton Moor Children's Centre to share the building.

This included infilling the mezzanine floor, making the upper floor more accessible with new office and meeting spaces, making improvements to the lift and creating new outdoor and indoor play space.

Mandy Bishop, an assistant director at North Somerset Council, said: "A key focus of the review has always been to continue to provide good quality services in our local communities at a price we can afford."

"What a lovely way to involve children in reading and introduce them to the library in a fun way."



"Very good for the Worle community and children to keep things together & positive :)"



"We look forward to welcoming existing and new library and children's centre users to these buildings."

The Community Access Review also looked at other sites in North Somerset, including Congresbury and Weston South (Oldmixon Family Centre and the For All Healthy Living Centre).

Congresbury's library became a community-managed centre in July and is now run by a team of volunteers, with support from Congresbury Parish Council and North Somerset Council.

At Oldmixon Family Centre, in Monkton Avenue, a library access point has been installed, with a limited selection of books, free wi-fi, access to online council services and the LibrariesWest catalogue.

Library members can also reserve and collect books here free of charge.

"I found the new refurbished library a very nice place, it was light and airy and the books were well displayed. The staff were very polite and very helpful."



Opening times

Worle

- Library: Mon, Tues, Fri 9.30am-5pm (10am on first Fri of the month); Sat 9.30am-1pm. 01934 426 090
- Children's centre: Weds to Fri 9am-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm. 01934 426 618

Pill

- Library: Tues and Fri 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-5pm; Sat 9.30am-1pm. 01934 426 070
- Children's centre: Tues 9.30am-12.30pm and 1-4.30pm; Weds and Thurs 9am-12.30pm and 1-3.30pm. 01275 884 002 (children's centre).

Yatton

- Library: Mon, Tues, Thurs 9.30am-5pm (10am on first Tues of the month); Sat 9.30am-1pm. 01934 426 100
- Children's centre: Tues, Weds and Fri 9am-3.30pm. 01934 426 633

Oldmixon

- Library: Tues 9am-12.30pm; Weds to Fri 9am-12.30pm and 1-4pm. 01934 426 881
- Children's centre: Tues to Thurs 9am-5pm; Fri 9am-4.30pm. 01934 426 881

Library opening hours at Worle, Yatton, Portishead, Long Ashton, Winscombe and Clevedon will soon increase when new self-service technology is installed.

This will provide a self-service swipe card system to enable access to the library at times when it might normally be closed.

Reserve a book for free

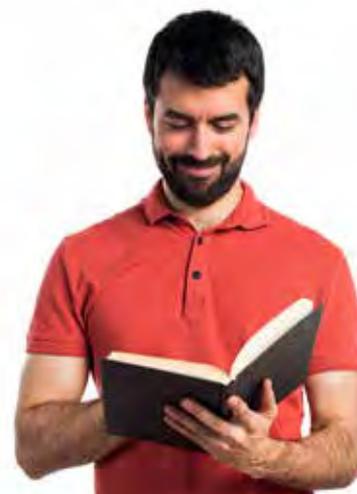


Reserving an item from any North Somerset library is currently free for members.

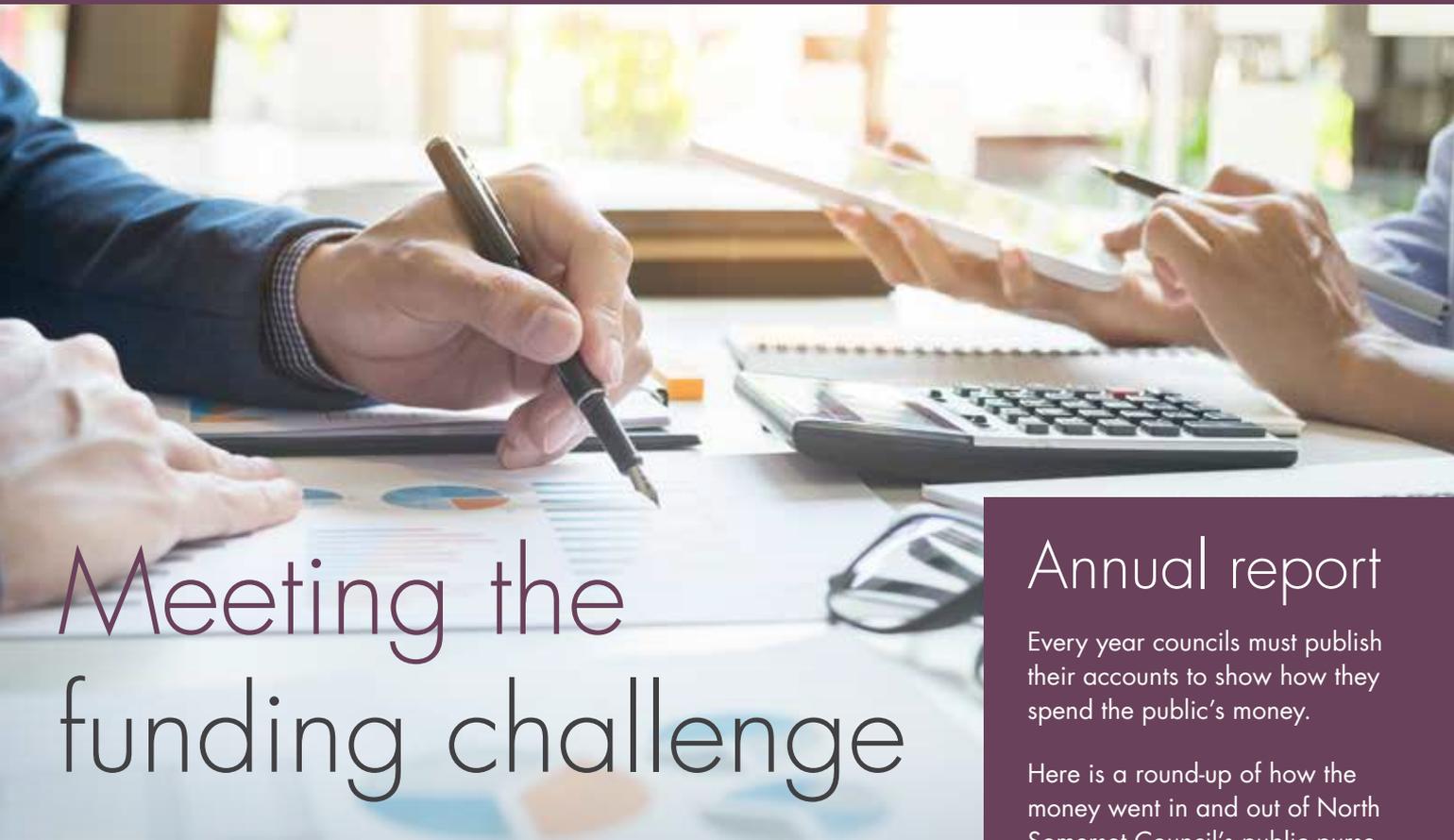
The reservation fee was suspended for a year in July to encourage more people to use the library service.

Charges still apply to drama, music and reading group sets, as well as items not in the LibrariesWest consortium.

"Wonderful to have my local library back - along with great staff - always smiling and helpful."



www.n-somerset.gov.uk/car
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries
www.librarieswest.org.uk
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/childrenscentres



Meeting the funding challenge

Annual report

Every year councils must publish their accounts to show how they spend the public's money.

Here is a round-up of how the money went in and out of North Somerset Council's public purse during 2016/17:

The challenge of doing more with less continues across the country as funding cuts to councils keep coming.

North Somerset Council has made about £60m of savings since 2010 but the end of austerity still seems a long way off.

As well as falls in central government funding, councils face significant increases in demand from adult and children's social care.

Some short-term funding for adult care has been made available, such as the specific council tax levy, but the number of vulnerable people needing support and the complexity of their needs continues to exceed available resources.

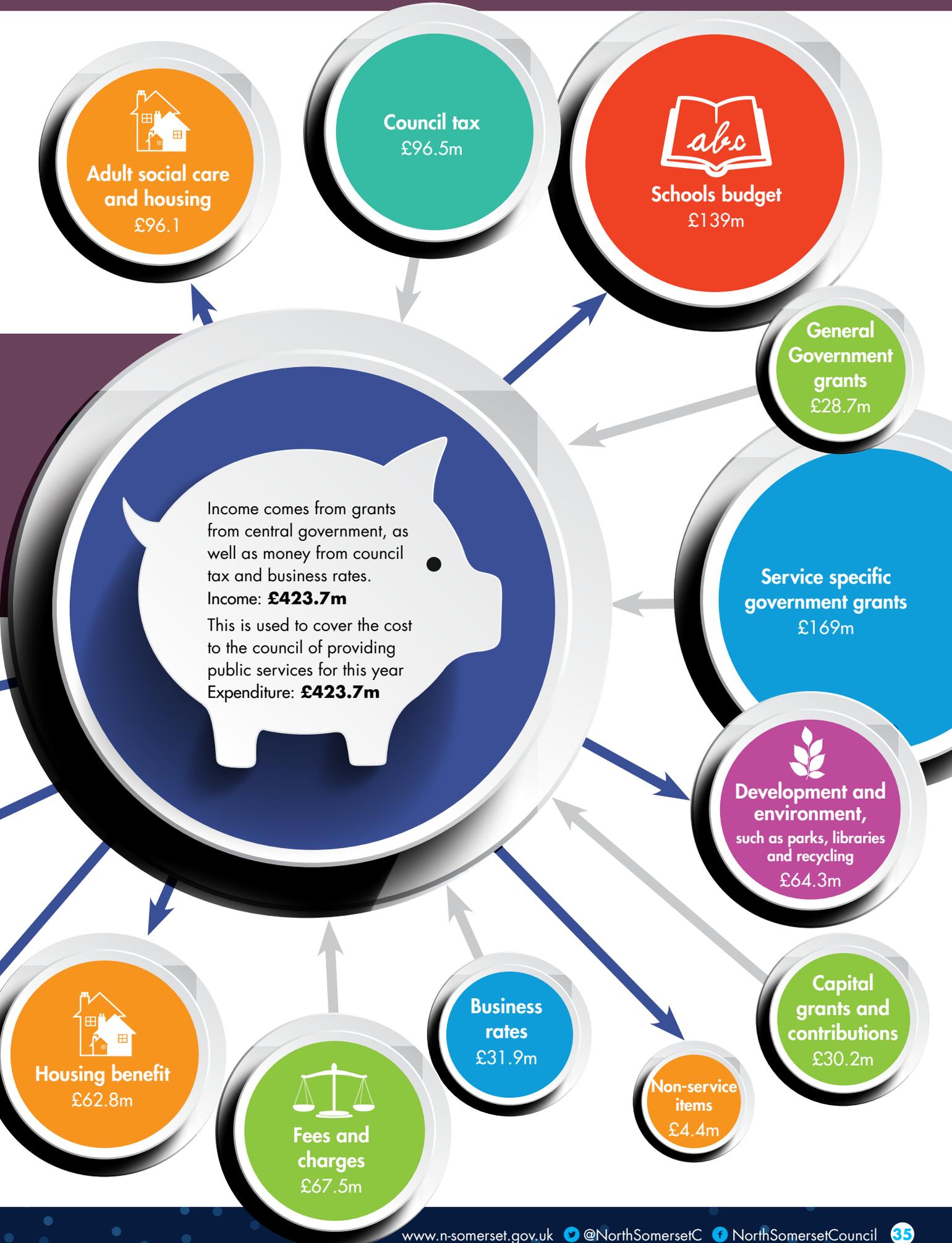
Despite this, North Somerset Council has coped well so far and maintained most frontline services and resident satisfaction rates.

On Wednesday 22 November the chancellor Philip Hammond will announce the first autumn budget, to replace the spring budget, as part of a new fiscal timetable.

Malcolm Coe, head of finance at North Somerset Council, said: "The growing pressure for local authorities to deliver a sustainable, affordable model for delivering social care services is a well-publicised, national issue and we await with interest the autumn budget.

"Indications from central government are that local government will face financial austerity for several more years to come."







Where does the money go?

North Somerset's capital investments in 2016/17

In addition to funding services, the council also spends capital money on important investments across North Somerset.



	£m
New roads/transport	24.6
Schools	10.6
New recycling and waste contract	7.4
Existing roads	3.9
Property and asset management	3.7
Strategic and regeneration projects	1.6
Other capital investment	2.5
Total	54.2

In **one day** North Somerset Council deals with...



A future of self-sufficiency



Financial self-sufficiency is the aim of North Somerset Council as it operates with less and less funding from central government.

Maintaining frontline services is becoming increasingly difficult with the significant financial savings already made.

In response, the organisation's corporate plan and medium-term financial plan reflect a new approach where commercial and contracting skills will be developed to generate income.

A strategic approach is being established which aims to create a largely self-sufficient financial position by 2021.

To achieve this, delivering structured growth of housing and businesses, along with the required infrastructure, is fundamental.

This will help the council retain more local income by increasing the council tax base and generating more local business rates.

Malcolm said: "Financial pressures mean that we have to think differently about what the council does, how it does it and how it creates the growth we need locally.

"Working with our partners to share functions and jointly deliver services will also become increasingly important.

"There is no doubt that change on the scale required is challenging but so far, we have risen to that challenge.

"In the future this change means that we will be in greater control of our finances, and better connected and more responsive to our local economy."



For more information contact the finance team: **01934 634 619** • www.n-somerset.gov.uk/budget

All financial statements have been prepared in accordance with appropriate accounting policies. A full copy of the draft statement of accounts and the auditor's opinion was presented to the council's Audit Committee at the end of September.



New Winter Gardens welcomes first visitors

Weston's historic Winter Gardens is now welcoming students and visitors after its £15m revamp to bring it into the 21st century.

Weston College has updated the neo-Georgian 1920s area for public use, while also creating an educational centre for law, finance and some university-level courses.

In the oldest part of the building, the roof, walls and plasterwork have been refurbished, along with original fixtures and fittings such as the ballroom's uplighters.

The dome in the ballroom has been treated with an acoustic solution to help dampen its echo and a new sound system and video technology have been installed.

There is also a new reception area and new 1920s-inspired Lasseter's restaurant, as well as the Florentine bistro overlooking the Italian Gardens.

For students, high-tech classrooms and independent study spaces have been created alongside a new library.

Several rooms are available for hire, accommodating up to 900 delegates.

There are also five adaptable function rooms which can seat between 30 and 100 people.



www.westonwintergardens.co.uk
For venue hire call the box office:
01934 411 100

Did you know?

- £15m has been spent improving public areas, refurbishing the ballroom and installing new technology
- the plasterwork in the dome was only meant to last 80 years – but the building is now 90
- 50,000 staples were used to fix the dome and prevent its collapse. The plasterwork around the centre of the ballroom has been replaced with lightweight plastic to stop it collapsing
- 46 per cent of the building is open to the public
- the ballroom's arches are hollow and one column contains bottles filled with press cuttings, photographs and mementos left by the original builders in the 1920s
- 300 fish live in the pond
- 100 builders were working on site at any given time during September.

Dolphin Square brings 250 new jobs

About 250 new jobs will be created in Weston-super-Mare once the new Dolphin Square leisure complex is completed.

Cineworld, Nandos, Anytime Fitness and Luda Bingo have been working with North Somerset Council's Skills4Work programme to identify job opportunities and match potential employees.

The programme has been developed with Job Centre Plus, Westonworks and Team North Somerset and more than 100 people have registered since January.

The tailored service works closely with applicants, identifying skills

gaps and needs, offering training where required and supporting job applications.

Stephen Bashford, head of economic development at North Somerset Council, said: "We have been working closely with Dolphin Square businesses to gain an understanding of their skills requirements to ensure the majority of the roles will be allocated to North Somerset residents.

"By committing the businesses to agree to recruit using our local employment scheme, we are able to cherry pick from the registered programme participants, to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to apply for roles."



Dolphin Square is part of the bigger regeneration plan for Weston-super-Mare, which will see improvements to key development sites and infrastructure projects, and positively encourage investment within the town.

For more information or to register contact Skills4Work: 01934 426 674 business@n-somerset.gov.uk

Schoolchildren make a splash

Many people have been enjoying the new fountains in the refurbished Italian Gardens since they were switched on in September.



School children from Walliscote Primary School enjoying the new fountains

Did you know...?

- there are 36 jets
- jets are turned off or put on a lower setting on windy days
- each jet has a white LED light underneath
- water is recycled, filtered and treated

Creative co-working hub opens its doors

Creative freelancers or digital designers can now sign up for Weston's new co-working hub.

The Stable, in Wadham Street, opened its doors to the public in September offering a space for freelancers, micro and start-up businesses on flexible and low-risk terms.

Manager Kerry O'Neill said: "We are catering for the town's creative professionals in a community that supports and inspires."

Networking events will be available to members to cultivate their business success.



For more details or a tour visit www.thestableweston.com

Small start-ups becoming successful national companies

Small start-up firms based at a business centre in Weston-super-Mare are developing into successful national companies.



The Hive, within Junction 21 Enterprise Area, is providing the perfect base for growing businesses who need an office environment.

The building opened in 2014 and is owned and operated by not-for-profit organisation North Somerset Enterprise Agency (NSEA), which is based on-site and provides free and low-cost support and training.

It provides managed workspaces with a range of options, including a 'business express' lounge rentable by the hour or day, virtual tenancies, shared office space and full tenancy.

Business development manager Rob Hicks said: "Start-up and small businesses can quickly reach the point where they need professional premises to develop and grow but don't want the commitment of a long, expensive lease.

"The Hive is perfect for those who are in the early days of running a business and may be finding life as a sole trader or smaller enterprise a challenge or solitary experience.

"Coming here means owners get to meet many other interesting and growing businesses they can network and share advice and experiences with. It makes the journey less lonely."

Last year an office share scheme launched to enable smaller firms to 'co-habit' so they could have lower rental costs.

The building is now 87 per cent full with 32 tenants physically based there and 27 more companies using it as a virtual office.

There is a manned reception area, on-site parking and bicycle storage, fast and reliable internet, and communal areas.

Rob said: "We are thrilled that three years from opening we are now an exciting, dynamic and close-knit business community.

"We have an amazing array of businesses here, from new start-ups to fast growing enterprises. This presents superb opportunities for networking and collaboration.

"We've already seen many of our tenants grow and expand, which is hugely satisfying."



One of Britain's fastest growing companies **blooms at the Hive**



Green Frog Connect directors
Tom Drake and Richard Shearer

Business is booming for a Hive-based firm which was recently named as one of the fastest growing companies in Britain.

Green Frog Connect (GFC) was founded in 2012 by Richard Shearer from North Somerset and Tom Drake from Sheffield.

The company links renewable sources of power, such as wind turbines and solar arrays, and gas-fired power stations to the national grid.

Last year it won a big contract to help build 10 gas-fired power stations across the UK and turnover has increased from £1.4m in 2013/14 to £20.5m in 2015/16.

As a result, earlier this year it was ranked 18th in the Sunday Times Virgin Fast Track 100 league table – a list of Britain's top 100 private companies with the fastest-growing sales over the last three years.

Richard said: "Being recognised as one of the fastest growing business in the UK provides credibility for the business and acknowledgment of our success.

"It also gives employees confidence and validation of what the business is trying to accomplish and recognition of our professionalism."

GFC was originally a home-based business but moved into a 22sqm office in the Hive in 2014. It now has a connected 43sqm and 32sqm office space.

Vision to grow comes to fruition

Commercial furniture supplier Furniture23 is celebrating prestigious client wins, expansion and another year of trading success.

The company moved into the Hive in early 2015 with a vision to grow and since then has seen demand for its products and services increase dramatically.

Furniture23 has clients across the south west and nationally, particularly in higher education, commercial and public sector work, and provides everything from an individual chair to a complete office.

Recent client wins include providing furniture for Alliance Pharmaceutical's new £400,000 headquarters in Chippenham, the first of L'Oreal's NYX cosmetic brand stores to launch in the UK, and the refurbishment of meeting facilities for professional services company Arup.

Chris Fox launched the business in 2006 and said: "The contract furniture industry is ever-moving and agile working is key.

"Traditional desks are disappearing as offices become more open plan and employers recognise that people don't have to be rooted to a desk to work effectively."

The firm received advice and support NSEA's business advisers at the Hive and it is now expanding with two new members of staff.

Chris added: "Our ambition going forward is to remain at the forefront of our industry and ahead of the game."



Rob Hicks (left), of the Hive, with Chris Fox of Furniture23

The Hive: 0800 083 3093 www.thehiveweston.org.uk

Food waste is costing you

Food scraps, leftovers and even mouldy marmalade lurking in the back of your fridge could become clean, green electricity thanks to recycling.



Recycling your food waste also means less waste going to landfill – so a smaller landfill tax for North Somerset Council.



Help speed up crews by sorting

Sorting your recycling boxes helps speed up kerbside collections, which in turn reduces traffic congestion and keeps crews safe.

Impatient drivers who veer recklessly around recycling trucks onto pavements are being targeted in a new campaign.

Watch Biffa's video at: goo.gl/NHWQKr

During 2016, recycling crews in North Somerset...

- collected **6,557 tonnes** of food waste
- generated almost **2,000 megawatts** of clean electricity
- saved more than **12,500kg of CO₂** and methane from being released into the environment
- **saved £297,000** of council tax by diverting the food waste from expensive landfill

Based on a recent evaluation, about 23 per cent of the contents of black bins is food waste.

This means that you pay twice for almost a quarter of what's in your bin – once at the supermarket and once with your council tax.

Reducing this black bin waste and recycling food waste instead would allow that council tax money to go back into the services you really care about.

Innovative ideas for leftovers

Reinvent your recipes, reduce food waste and save money by learning some innovative ways of using leftovers.

Money saving hints and tips and great recipes are available online for free from www.lovefoodhatewaste.com and wasteless.savemore.sainsbury.co.uk

For anyone with a smartphone, the Love Your Leftovers app will help reinvent your roast potatoes and more.

This app is available for free in both Apple app and Google Play stores.



Food waste bin myths vs facts

<p>MYTH We don't have food waste...</p>	<p>FACT Food waste includes all food preparation by-products, such as bones, seeds and peels, or oils and scrapings from pots; and even forgotten food from the fridge freezer.</p>
<p>MYTH It will all biodegrade anyway...</p>	<p>FACT Methane gas produced in landfill goes into the atmosphere and contributes to excess greenhouse gasses.</p>
<p>MYTH Food waste is smelly and unclean...</p>	<p>FACT Food waste is collected and removed from your property every week.</p>
<p>MYTH I have to buy expensive bags for the caddy...</p>	<p>FACT Any well-fitting plastic bag will keep your caddy clean and dry. Seven-litre bags are recommended for your small kitchen caddy. These are available in many shops, including discount stores.</p>

What can go in the food caddy?



- table scraps
- bread
- fruit and veg
- tea bags
- coffee grounds and paper filters
- preparation waste
- refrigerator waste
- out-of-date cereals
- stale crackers
- meat, dairy, and cheese
- bones and shells

Learn to love your freezer

Using your freezer to its fullest will save you money and make it more efficient.

Most fresh food can be frozen up to and including its 'best before' date.

Leftover food can also be packed up, chilled and labelled to be reinvented for quick, easy meals.

You do need to make sure your food is safe though. If there is an unknown frozen item lurking at the back, remove the packaging as best you can and put it in your food waste.



Join the social media conversation



New social media accounts have launched so residents can speak directly to the recycling and waste team.

Conversations can be had through Twitter and Facebook, as well as recycling tips, ideas to keep your money in your pocket, and food saving ideas during the festive season.

- Search for North Somerset Recycling and Waste
- @ns_recycling

New levy introduced to help fund infrastructure



Funds for much-needed infrastructure in North Somerset will be given a boost next year thanks to a new levy on developments.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new charge coming in January which developers will have to pay. It will be used to help fund the cost of infrastructure, such as schools and transport improvements.

It is being introduced by North Somerset Council to help tackle the pressures that come from growth across the area.

Both residential and retail developers will need to pay. Charges are based on a tariff per square metre, with different rates according to the size, type and location of the building.

Communities will benefit first-hand because town and parish councils will get a direct cut of the income.

The CIL partially replaces the current system of development contributions, known as section 106 agreements.



Who pays the levy?

Development that is granted planning consent on or after Thursday 18 January next year could be liable to pay the community infrastructure levy.

Residential and retail development will be liable if the...

- development comprises of 100m² or more of new build floor space
- development creates one or more new dwellings (even if less than 100m²)

Deductions will normally be made for the conversion of existing floorspace that is in lawful use.

Some development will be exempt, such as affordable housing, self-build developments, and developments by charities. There are strict processes governing these.



Where is the money spent?

North Somerset Council is required to spend the levy income on infrastructure to support development – but this does not have to be related to the development that paid the charge.

Many authorities save up their levy money to fund bigger items that serve a wider area.

An annual report will be published to show how the money is being spent.

In addition, 15 per cent of levy income will be passed to the town or parish council where the development takes place.

This increases to 25 per cent if the town or parish council has an adopted neighbourhood plan.

Find out more at
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/cil

Get vocal, be heard

Listening to residents' views is an important part of the democratic process and North Somerset Council welcomes ideas to make things better.

While the council can't act on every suggestion, it listens to feedback and makes changes where possible.



You said:

At the end of The Saffrons, Worle, there is a footpath entrance to the park on Walford Avenue. There is however, no disabled access at this entrance...



We did:

Thank you for this information. We will be putting in a dropped kerb and we'll also move the bin.

Feedback:

Many thanks for your quick and efficient response to my request less than 10 days ago! Lowering the kerb to make the path, and therefore the park, accessible to all is fab. Thank you so much.

I was so delighted to be able to take my girls to the park this afternoon without having to ask a stranger for help to haul the scooter over the kerb or making a lengthy detour. Great work. Thanks.



You said:

What are you doing to tackle mental health stigma?

We did:

North Somerset Council has joined forces with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership, North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and local mental health charity 1 in 4 People to form the Warriors of Wellbeing, a group of organisations and individuals aiming to change how people think and act about mental health.

The group held its first event in October to mark World Mental Health Day, with a range of activities across Clevedon.

To find out more visit the Warriors of Wellbeing Facebook page.

 /warriorsofwellbeing

www.1in4people.org.uk

Your views

Send your items to
Editor, North Somerset Life
North Somerset Council
Floor 1, Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare, BS23 1UJ
or email editor@n-somerset.gov.uk

- @NorthSomersetC
- NorthSomersetCouncil
- @NorthSomersetLife

Items submitted without a valid name and address will not be considered for publication. Please tell us if you do not want your details published. Due to space restrictions letters may be edited.

Dear Editor,

I was amazed to read that fallen fruit can be dumped in the garden waste bin. I always put mine in the brown food waste bin as surely it is classed as rotting food waste?

Chris Whitley, by email

Editor's reply:

Ideally fallen fruit should go in your food waste as it can then be turned into clean, green electricity.

It does depend on the volume, though. If you run out of space in your food waste bin, it can go in the garden waste bin.

Dear Editor,

A small group of women from Clevedon are helping to feed and educate more than one million children in 14 countries.

With Christmas just around the corner, most of us look forward to the celebration.

But as we all know, there are very many people in the world who do not have this luxury.

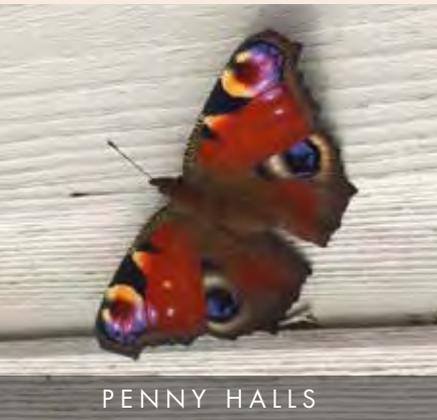
Together with other groups worldwide, these Clevedon women are helping to raise funds in aid of Mary's Meals - a charity based in Scotland founded by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow OBE.

The main mission is the belief that no child should endure a day without a meal and the charity now feeds more than 1.2 million children every school day.

The Clevedon group holds regular fundraising events and a Christmas coffee morning will be held from 11am-2pm in a private house in Portbury on Saturday 2 December. Tickets cost £3 per person. Email marysevents12@yahoo.com or call 07576 775 005. www.marysmeals.org.uk

Wendy Walden, Mary's Meals

North Somerset Life is now on Instagram. Tag #northsomersetlife to share your pictures.



PENNY HALLS



@LAYLA_SIDWELL



@R2WTRIALS



Many topics are covered on Twitter and Facebook and last month these issues were raised.

f Credit where credit is due! Recycling men back to collect missed collection at 9.15am this morning, despite a gridlocked Portishead. Well done!

t @NorthSomersetC I would like some reassurance that you are NOT one of the councils involved (re councils buying homeless people one-way train tickets)

North Somerset Council: We only fund the cost of travel where the person concerned has an address to go to that we have verified.

t What does it take for a pre-application site meeting regarding planning issues, in order to gauge development possibilities?

North Somerset Council: Due to resource constraints and because not everyone needs a site meeting, they are now chargeable. You can pay separately for pre-application site meeting and you wouldn't need to make a full application.

North Somerset Life is the magazine for the people of North Somerset. Your copy should be delivered with your post unless you use Royal Mail's opt out service to block unaddressed mail.

You can download this issue and back issues from www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsi or pick copies up from council buildings.

Coming next issue:

- Get fit for New Year
- Dementia care

Sign up to *Life's* online edition and receive news straight into your inbox. Visit www.northsomersetlife.co.uk

Tide timetables for Weston-super-Mare

Tide facts

Approximate high water times at:

- Clevedon: 10 min
- Portishead: 18 min
- later than Weston-super-Mare.

Weather conditions which differ from the average will have an effect on the differences between predicted and actual tide times.

Strong winds can hold the tide in or push the tide out. Air pressure can also cause fluctuations in predicted levels.

Tidal predictions for Weston-super-Mare have been computed by the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory.

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www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Report it. Request it. Pay for it.
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/connect

9am – 5pm Mon – Fri

Council Connect: for all streets and open spaces enquiries:
01934 888 802

Care Connect: for all social services enquiries:
01275 888 801
care.connect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Main switchboard:
01934 888 888

Emergency (out of hours):
01934 622 669

North Somerset Council
Town Hall
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1UJ

November 2017

Date	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Height (m)						
1 Wed	04:06	10.35	10:08	2.06	16:33	11.04	22:34	1.59
2 Thu	04:56	11.30	10:57	1.52	17:19	11.85	23:24	1.15
3 Fri	05:42	12.01	11:45	1.13	18:04	12.41	-	-
4 Sat	06:26	12.49	00:09	0.84	18:47	12.74	12:29	0.85
5 Sun	07:07	12.76	00:51	0.64	19:31	12.87	13:10	0.70
6 Mon	07:49	12.81	01:33	0.60	20:13	12.74	13:53	0.73
7 Tue	08:32	12.59	02:14	0.76	20:59	12.31	14:33	0.95
8 Wed	09:17	12.06	02:54	1.10	21:46	11.60	15:13	1.32
9 Thu	10:05	11.31	03:35	1.53	22:38	10.77	16:00	1.76
10 Fri	11:00	10.53	04:23	2.00	23:37	10.02	16:56	2.21
11 Sat	-	9.94	05:27	2.43	12:03	9.94	18:11	2.56
12 Sun	00:46	9.59	06:51	2.69	13:19	9.75	19:41	2.60
13 Mon	02:05	9.66	08:17	2.52	14:40	10.05	20:55	2.22
14 Tue	03:22	10.20	09:24	2.04	15:51	10.68	21:57	1.75
15 Wed	04:24	10.89	10:21	1.58	16:47	11.25	22:47	1.39
16 Thu	05:12	11.40	11:06	1.28	17:32	11.58	23:28	1.22
17 Fri	05:54	11.67	11:43	1.18	18:11	11.71	-	-
18 Sat	06:31	11.80	00:02	1.20	18:46	11.76	12:16	1.19
19 Sun	07:04	11.86	00:34	1.23	19:19	11.74	12:47	1.20
20 Mon	07:37	11.82	01:02	1.26	19:50	11.62	13:16	1.23
21 Tue	08:07	11.63	01:29	1.33	20:20	11.35	13:43	1.33
22 Wed	08:36	11.26	01:56	1.48	20:50	10.92	14:11	1.53
23 Thu	09:06	10.76	02:23	1.72	21:21	10.40	14:41	1.82
24 Fri	09:38	10.20	02:52	2.02	21:55	9.84	15:16	2.16
25 Sat	10:14	9.64	03:29	2.35	22:37	9.33	15:58	2.51
26 Sun	11:02	9.18	04:15	2.69	23:31	8.95	16:55	2.82
27 Mon	-	-	05:18	2.98	12:07	8.92	18:11	3.02
28 Tue	00:43	8.84	06:44	3.14	13:33	9.10	19:42	2.93
29 Wed	02:11	9.24	08:17	2.91	14:51	9.81	21:00	2.43
30 Thu	03:21	10.08	09:27	2.33	15:53	10.73	21:57	1.85

December 2017

Date	AM		PM		AM		PM	
	Time	Height (m)						
1 Fri	04:20	11.00	10:22	1.78	16:47	11.55	22:52	1.39
2 Sat	05:12	11.78	11:18	1.33	17:38	12.17	23:44	1.00
3 Sun	06:01	12.34	-	-	18:27	12.57	12:07	0.96
4 Mon	06:48	12.69	00:30	0.72	19:14	12.76	12:52	0.72
5 Tue	07:34	12.83	01:14	0.60	20:01	12.73	13:36	0.66
6 Wed	08:19	12.72	01:58	0.66	20:48	12.45	14:20	0.78
7 Thu	09:08	12.35	02:43	0.90	21:37	11.91	15:07	1.07
8 Fri	09:56	11.76	03:29	1.26	22:27	11.21	15:56	1.44
9 Sat	10:49	11.08	04:18	1.67	23:20	10.51	16:48	1.84
10 Sun	11:45	10.45	05:14	2.05	-	-	17:51	2.18
11 Mon	00:20	9.97	06:22	2.36	12:47	10.03	19:03	2.41
12 Tue	01:26	9.70	07:37	2.50	13:57	9.90	20:16	2.40
13 Wed	02:38	9.79	08:46	2.36	15:10	10.09	21:16	2.20
14 Thu	03:46	10.17	09:42	2.09	16:12	10.45	22:09	1.95
15 Fri	04:41	10.62	10:31	1.82	17:02	10.79	22:54	1.72
16 Sat	05:26	10.99	11:12	1.61	17:45	11.04	23:32	1.55
17 Sun	06:05	11.26	11:48	1.46	18:23	11.21	-	-
18 Mon	06:41	11.44	00:06	1.43	18:58	11.31	12:21	1.36
19 Tue	07:16	11.52	00:38	1.36	19:31	11.33	12:53	1.31
20 Wed	07:47	11.49	01:09	1.35	20:02	11.26	13:25	1.33
21 Thu	08:18	11.36	01:40	1.42	20:35	11.10	13:58	1.43
22 Fri	08:51	11.12	02:11	1.56	21:08	10.84	14:33	1.60
23 Sat	09:26	10.77	02:44	1.76	21:43	10.48	15:10	1.83
24 Sun	10:04	10.35	03:20	2.00	22:22	10.07	15:48	2.08
25 Mon	10:45	9.94	04:01	2.25	23:07	9.69	16:36	2.32
26 Tue	11:35	9.62	04:55	2.49	-	-	17:36	2.51
27 Wed	00:03	9.42	06:01	2.69	12:40	9.48	18:50	2.63
28 Thu	01:15	9.38	07:22	2.77	14:00	9.68	20:12	2.54
29 Fri	02:35	9.78	08:47	2.54	15:13	10.29	21:23	2.14
30 Sat	03:44	10.52	09:51	2.04	16:17	11:02	22:22	1.67
31 Sun	04:45	11.30	10:51	1.56	17:16	11.70	23:21	1.22

Christmas collection days

Recycling and waste collections will change during the festive season.
Don't miss your new date...

Original collection day

Mon 25 Dec
Tues 26 Dec
Wed 27 Dec
Thurs 28 Dec
Fri 29 Dec
Mon 1 Jan
Tues 2 Jan
Wed 3 Jan
Thurs 4 Jan
Fri 5 Jan
Mon 8 Jan
Tues 9 Jan
Wed 10 Jan
Thurs 11 Jan
Fri 12 Jan

Revised collection day

Wed 27 Dec
Thurs 28 Dec
Fri 29 Dec
Sat 30 Dec
Tues 2 Jan
Wed 3 Jan
Thurs 4 Jan
Fri 5 Jan
Sat 6 Jan
Mon 8 Jan
Tues 9 Jan
Wed 10 Jan
Thurs 11 Jan
Fri 12 Jan
Sat 13 Jan

There are no other planned changes to collection days until early 2018.

To check when your next collections are due over the winter, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/calendar for your up-to-date collection calendar.