



**Somerset Liberal Democrats
Chard South
June 2026**

Somerset Plans 580 New Council Homes by 2031

Somerset Council has adopted a new Social Housing Development Strategy with an ambitious target to build 580 affordable, energy-efficient council homes by March 2031. Developed jointly with Homes in Somerset, the strategy focuses on affordability, sustainability and meeting the needs of diverse communities across the county, including rural areas. Schemes already completed include Minehead's Rainbow Way Development and Taunton's Lavinia House, with Penlea in Bridgwater and North Woolaway in Taunton currently in development.



Could You Foster a Child in Somerset?

To mark Foster Care Fortnight, Fostering in Somerset recently held a series of informal drop-in events across the county, giving residents a relaxed chance to meet local foster carers and find out more. With more than 650 children currently in care in Somerset, more local foster carers are needed to help children stay close to their schools, friends and communities. If the events sparked your interest, it's not too late to take the next step. Visit the Get involved page or follow @FosteringInSomerset on Facebook, Instagram or X to find out more about fostering in Somerset



Somerset Council Sets Out New Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Somerset Council has agreed a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2026–2030 with a focused set of priorities including improving access to services for digitally excluded people, tackling discrimination in schools, strengthening support for disabled employees, and demonstrating leadership on equality in the community.



Council Leader Cllr Bill Revans said: "Equality is not an add-on to what we do – it goes to the heart of how we serve our communities and employ people. Our aim is simple: a fairer Somerset where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Pot Holes and Roadworks update

It's been a busy month for road repairs although we are aware that there is still much more work to be done, please report any defects that you come across via the website or get in contact with myself. Here is a brief list of repairs and works that have taken place in our area over the last month.



U8769/10 MONMOUTH COURT

U5122/90 CHARDSTOCK LANE

U8762/10 MILLFIELD

B3162/210 STREET FARM TO BLACKLAND LANE - FORTON

B3162/220 FORTON ROAD - FORTON

Emergency Jetter B3167/120 PERRY STREET - SOUTH CHARD

Edge Loss U5122/90 CHARDSTOCK LANE

Edge Loss U5171/10 HOLWAY - TATWORTH

Loose / Rocking Kerb U8753/80 BONFIRE CLOSE

U8760/30 COMMERCIAL ROW

Multiple CW Safety Defects U8762/10 MILLFIELD

U8797/10 LINKHAY - SOUTH CHARD

U5120/30 LOVERIDGE LANE - TATWORTH

T5163/10 CROSSWAYS - SOUTH CHARD

U8761/10 MONTAGUE WAY

U8756/30 KING ATHELSTAN DRIVE

U8756/20 KING CUTHRED DRIVE

U8757/10 HENDERSON DRIVE

U8760/10 MILL LANE 1

U8761/50 HERVEY ROAD

U8797/40 WATERMEAD - SOUTH CHARD

U8797/110 KENTS LANE - SOUTH CHARD

Lib Dems Receive Vote of Confidence in Somerset By-Elections

The Liberal Democrats won three by-elections in Somerset on 7 May. In the Somerset Council by-election for the Mendip Hills division, Sam Phripp was elected with 1,534 votes — more than doubling the previous Lib Dem majority, on a turnout of 46%. The Lib Dems also won St Thomas's Ward on Wells City Council and Pyrland Ward on Taunton Town Council



Somerset Council Builds Top Team to Seize the Opportunities Ahead

Somerset Council Leader Cllr Bill Revans has added new faces to his executive team, putting in place a leadership line-up best placed to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities facing Somerset. Cllr Revans remains Leader with responsibility for Governance and Communications, alongside Deputy Leader Cllr Liz Leyshon covering Finance, Procurement and Performance. The nine-strong Lead Member team is completed by Cllr Sarah Wakefield (Adult Services, Housing and Homelessness), Cllr Heather S hearer (Children, Families and Education), Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts (Communities, Environment and Climate Change), Cllr Mike Rigby (Economic Development, Planning and Assets), Cllr Richard Wilkins (Highways and Transport), Cllr Evie Potts-Jones (SEND, Public Health and Equalities and Diversity) and Cllr Theo Butt Philip (Transformation, Human Resources and Localities). Supporting the executive are eight Associate Lead Members: Cllr Ros Wyke (Active Travel), Cllr Cara Strom (Adult Social Care and Housing), Cllr David Woan (Business Strategy), Cllr Jo Roundell-Greene (Children's Services and Education Strategy), Cllr Steve Ashton (Climate Change), Cllr Claire Sully (Community Resilience), Cllr Nicola Clark (Culture and Leisure) and Cllr Ewan Cameron (Transformation and Prevention).



Keeping in Contact

**COME AND TALK WITH US
AT A LIB DEM SURGERY**

FIRST SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

With your Town and Unitary Councillors

AT THE GUILDHALL, CHARD



10am to 12pm

You can meet with me to discuss any concerns or for help by dropping into our monthly surgery or I can arrange an appointment on a day and time that suits you or feel free to give me a call on 07736 310805 or email Jason.baker@somerset.gov.uk

Putting the heart back into Somerset

Liberal