



**Somerset Liberal Democrats**  
**Chard South**  
March 2025

## Vital drainage and gas mains upgrades move to next phase in Chard

Somerset Council and partners advance crucial drainage and gas mains upgrades in Chard to reduce flooding and improve infrastructure. Somerset Council is working with [Wessex Water](#) and [Wales and West Utilities](#) to co-ordinate two vital infrastructure schemes in Chard during 2025. Wessex Water is investing more than £1.3 million to help alleviate sewer flooding in the town, while Wales & West Utilities is investing £415,000 to upgrade the gas network in the area, switching from the current metal pipes to long-lasting pipes, with the work being carried out between January and approximately October 2025. This week sees the start of phase 2 of the work.

Construction teams have been working in Victoria Avenue since the start of January as part of the opening phase of the scheme, which will conclude on Wednesday 12 February.



Furnham Road, which will be closed to through traffic from the junction with Victoria Avenue to the junction with Glynswood for the sewer and gas pipe upgrades to continue from **Thursday 13 February 2025 until Friday 30 May**. A diversion is in place via Victoria Avenue, A30 (East Street) and A358 Furnham Road. There is further information on the following map, including details on the remaining phases of work: There will also be temporary traffic signals on the A358. One signal head will be on the junction with Victoria Avenue and the A358 Furnham Road and the other traffic signal head will be on junction with Coker Way and the A358 Furnham Road. The A358 Furnham Road will remain closed throughout from the junction with Victoria Avenue to Glynswood. Wales and West require traffic signals on the A358 Furnham Road and the junction with Mount Hindrance Lane to allow for the pushing of the gas main into Victoria Road junction.

## The Lord Lieutenant Mohammed Saddiq and his Deputy Polly Marsh recently visited Holyrood Academy in Chard.

The visit was organised by Somerset Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award team to help showcase how the award works across the county with the different types of DofE centre. Holyrood is Somerset's largest centre to deliver DofE, signing up over 200 young people each year, including nearly all year 9's as part of a school initiative to give students key life-skills.

Silver certificates were awarded to achievers, alongside meeting some Gold achievers who will be heading to Buckingham Palace shortly to attend a Gold Award presentation event. The group then met with two Young Leaders, to hear about the great work that they do supporting the DofE leaders at Holyrood.



## Somerset Council is consulting on the school term and holiday dates

Somerset Council is consulting on the draft school term and holiday dates for the 2026 - 2027 and 2027- 2028 academic years. These will apply to Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. While Academies, Voluntary Aided, Foundation, and Free schools can set 10-day own dates, many choose to align with those set by Somerset Council. Feedback from this consultation will be gathered and presented to a working party in March 2025, with the final dates published on Somerset Council's website in April 2025. Here are some key points about the draft dates for both academic years:



- A total of 195 school days have been identified, including 5 INSET days.
  - Terms will generally start on a Monday and finish on a Friday, aiming for similar lengths.
  - Initial consultations with neighbouring Local Authorities suggest they will propose similar dates.
- For each academic year there are two options for consideration.

### Academic year 2026 - 2027

- Option A Shows a proposed calendar with a 10-day Christmas break (Including bank holidays), with term 6 ending on Friday 23 July. This is the option favoured by most of our neighbouring authorities

- Option B is an extended Christmas break for 12 days. With term 6 ending on Tuesday 27 July.

### Academic year 2027 - 2028

- Option A Shows a proposed calendar with a 11-day Christmas break (Including bank holidays), with term 6 ending on Friday 21 July. This is the option favoured by most of our neighbouring authorities

- Option B is an extended Christmas break for 13 days. With term 6 ending on Tuesday 25 July.

**This consultation closes at midnight on Friday 7 March 2025.**

Please share this information widely to ensure parents and local organisations are aware of the consultation. All feedback will be considered in the final decision-making process.

If you have any questions before submitting your comments, you can contact Samantha Bidgood from the Education Places Team at [samantha.bidgood@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.bidgood@somerset.gov.uk).

Why your views matter

## Tech Help at Chard Library

Bring your tablet, iPad, or smart phone and we'll try and help you with any general tech queries you may have. We can also help get you set up with our Library apps to access e-books, e-audiobooks. E-magazines or e-newspapers. If you are a job seeker or waiting to develop a new skill, we can also show you one of our tablets that are available to borrow for free.



## 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](mailto:Jason.baker@somerset.gov.uk)