



**Somerset Liberal Democrats**  
**Chard South**  
 May 2026

**Have Your Say on Somerset's SEND Reform Plan**

Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across Somerset are being urged to share their views as part of a consultation on the Government's SEND Reform Plan. Somerset Council must submit its local SEND Reform Plan by 19 June. Young people with SEND can take part via the SEND Reform Plan Survey, with responses needed by Friday 15 May 2026.



**Somerset's Social Care Challenge: How the Council is Responding**

Somerset Council's Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Housing, Councillor Sarah Wakefield, appeared on BBC Somerset to address questions from residents about the growing pressures on social care in the county. With Somerset having one of the oldest populations in the country, demand for adult social care is rising. She outlined steps including working more closely with the NHS and voluntary sector, investing in technology to help people live independently for longer and incorporating AI to save time.



Listen at: [bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002vc94](https://bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002vc94) (available for 24 days from

**Somerset's Public Health Chief Urges Residents to Get Free Heart Check**

Somerset's Director of Public Health, Alison Bell, is encouraging eligible residents to book a free NHS Health Check after having one herself. The checks, available to those aged 40–74 with no pre-existing heart conditions, assess cardiovascular health and risk of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Appointments are available at libraries and community venues across the county including Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Wellington, Minehead, Porlock, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Street, Highbridge, Wells and Wincanton. Book your appointment here.



For full article see: [somerset.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-leads-from-the-front-with-nhs-health-check/](https://somerset.gov.uk/news/director-of-public-health-leads-from-the-front-with-nhs-health-check/)

## 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.



B3162/310 Holyrood Street / Duck Lane Crowshute Link

U8762/10 Millfield

A358/160 Tatworth Road

U8756/10 King Alfred Drive

U8756/30 King Athelstan Drive

A358/175 Old Town / Siver Street / Millfield

U8760/20 Boden street

U8761/100 Bubwith Road

U8761/70 Bradfield Way

B1362/210 Street farm to Blackland Lane – Forton

U8763/10 Tapstone Road

T8974/10 Holyrood Street

U5122/100 Chardstock Lane

U8754/10 Culverhayes

U8760/10 Mill Lane

U8760/30 Commercil Row

U8760/40 Dwelly Close

U8761/110 Bubwith Close

U8761/20 Beckington Crescent

U8769/20 Monmouth Court

## Are You Making the Most of Your Food Waste Recycling?

If you're already recycling your food waste, give yourself a pat on the back — but a couple of simple checks could make your efforts even more effective. Food waste recycling is one of the easiest ways households can make a real difference to the environment. When food scraps are collected separately, they can be turned into energy and fertiliser rather than ending up in landfill.

Find out more at: [somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/join-the-food-waste-revolution-in-somerset](http://somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/join-the-food-waste-revolution-in-somerset)



## £22 Million Fund to Help Somerset Residents Through Financial Crisis

Somerset Council has received £22.6 million from the Government over three years to support residents facing financial hardship. Citizens Advice Somerset has been appointed to lead the scheme, working alongside partners including Age UK Somerset and Somerset Community Foundation to provide crisis payments, debt advice, budgeting support and employment guidance. Residents can apply via [citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk](http://citizensadvice Somerset.org.uk) or by calling 0808 278 7842.

Residents across Somerset who are feeling the financial squeeze can access a range of free local support — from food pantries and help with heating bills to mental health advice and assistance with rent and everyday essentials. Full details at: [somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support](http://somerset.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support)



## 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)