

Council Tax to be reduced

The papers have already carried the news that South Somerset District Council will be reducing Council Tax for 2015. I thought you might be interested in the information that informed that decision.

The South Somerset District Council is reducing the Council Tax because it can and can do so without damaging the financial stability of the District Council.

Over the years the Revenue Support Grant, a central government grant paid to local authorities has been reduced year on year – in 2011/12 it was reduced by 15.13% this year the percentage reduction will be 28.06%. However, despite these reductions the District Council's Finance Department has, over the last four years achieved savings totaling £5.393m. Likewise, its investments have produced solid returns.

During the past four years the District Council has gone through a 'lean' process and the number of personnel has been reduced from 608 in 2011 to 502 in 2015. **But**, the range and level of services offered to South Somerset residents have remained the same.

The District also receives a New Homes Bonus – a grant paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes in their area. It is a grant that is paid annually for a period of six years and has resulted in £7.85m being paid to South Somerset over the last four years.

Obviously Councils always have to bear in mind any possible future risks and these have been considered. However when it became apparent that the New Homes Bonus for 2015/2016 would be in the region of £3.991m, the District administration decided to reassess the budget. This reassessment resulted in the decision to use £170.9k of the confirmed new homes bonus to mitigate the impact of Council Tax on the South Somerset District Council residents in the 2015/16 Budget. So the element required by the South Somerset District Council for a

Band D property in 2009/10 was £147.78. In 2010/11 that element of the Council Tax rose to £150.74 and stayed that way for the next four years. This year the figure will drop to £147.75.

Somerset Waste Partnership

As I mention in my report last month, attempts are being made to ensure that food waste goes into the correct recycling container. The following information was recently sent out to all District Councillors.

From the week beginning 16th March, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) will be delivering leaflets and a free supply of kitchen caddy liners to households with food waste collections in the Chard and Ilminster zone in South Somerset. We will also be attaching stickers to refuse bins to remind householders that food waste should be recycled.

Deliveries are due to be undertaken over two weeks in the Chard and Ilminster zone and be completed by 27 March 2015.

On the basis of previous trials (in Street and Wellington), we expect the project to lead to a significant increase in food waste being recycled. If the increase and resultant landfill savings are sufficient, SWP will consider the on-going provision of free caddy liners to service users. It is intended that we can announce our plans on future liner supply by 18 May. Communication of this will include a press release, online posts on our website and social media and information being delivered direct to all service users in the project area.

If the project is successful, we will also consider extending it to other areas and districts.

The current project covers 115,000 households in Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and the Chard and Ilminster zone in South Somerset. It has been funded as a national demonstration project from a grant for which SWP successfully applied to government-backed agency WRAP.

We were also sent a copy of the leaflets that will be delivered (attached).

A New Leisure Play and Youth Strategy for South Somerset

Consultation Event Invitation – We Need Your Views!

I mentioned in my last report that the sport and leisure strategies needed updating and that consultation events were planned. You have a choice of three consultation events and the details, if you have not already seen them, are as follows:

'Area North

Long Sutton Golf Course, Long Load, Langport TA10 9JU on Thursday 26 March 2015 at 7.30pm

Area South

The Council Chamber, South Somerset District Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT on Thursday 9 April 2015 at 7.30pm

Area West

The Auditorium, Chard Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP on Thursday 30 April 2015 at 7.00pm

Representatives for parish/town councils, recreational trusts, sports clubs, youth groups, youth organisations, schools and interested members of the public will all be welcome.

During this consultation event, we will be focusing on the following:

- *Reviewing the outcomes and usefulness of our previous strategies*
- *The key issues that stakeholders feel need to be addressed in the future*
- *Understanding what support our stakeholders may need looking forward and their aspirations for a new leisure strategy for South Somerset*
- *Potential future priorities for delivery*

We hope this will be an invaluable opportunity for you to share your views with us and shape a new strategy and future provision in South Somerset. We do however appreciate that these events are taking place at a time when you are busy leading up to the Election in May. If you are unable to make any of the planned events there will be a further opportunity for you when we hold the 2nd round of consultation events.

To confirm your attendance, please email your name, organisation and the date you would like to attend to leisure@southsomerset.gov.uk or

phone Jo Drake on 01935 462345. Places shall be limited to a maximum of two representatives per organisation.'

Local Plan

On 5 March, the South Somerset District Council

- having noted the Inspector's Report had concluded that the South Somerset plan was 'sound'
- having agreed to the inclusion of 12 modifications

approved the proposed adoption of the South Somerset Local Plan (2006-2028)

'The finalised plan sets out proposals to deliver 15,950 homes and 11,250 jobs in South Somerset by 2028. The plan focuses on delivering the majority of growth in Yeovil as the district's main settlement with additional growth targeted towards the larger towns such as Chard, Crewkerne, Wincanton and Ilminster. The overall aim is to deliver sustainable development, capitalising on South Somerset's unique assets whilst protecting the wider countryside.'



Recycling containers order form
 You can also order online at:
www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/containers/order

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____
 Daytime telephone: _____
 Complete container order overleaf

Your recycling collections

Please recycle all that you can. The more you recycle, the less there is going to wasteful and expensive landfill. Your materials are sorted at the kerbside into different compartments on collection vehicles. This is much easier if materials are put out as below.

Box 1

Please stack paper and group materials together, so collectors can easily sort them from your box.

newspapers & magazines	leaflets	directories	white paper & envelopes
shredded paper	glass bottles & jars	foil	textiles

If you have a small amount for recycling, it is OK to use one box only, with different materials grouped together.

On top or alongside boxes

Textiles (includes clothes, sheets and curtains but not stuffed items, such as pillows or quilts) and shoes - all in plastic bags to keep dry (not black socks) and please label 'textiles'

Box 2

Please flatten cardboard and no more than the equivalent of two recycling boxes each collection - take large sheets and quantities to a recycling centre. Plastic bottles and cans can be mixed together, as they are separated on sorting lines at depots. We do not accept polystyrene, plastic pots, tubs, trays or film.

corrugated cardboard	thin card	brown envelopes
printer & toner	aerosols	greetings cards
food and drinks cans	food and drinks cans	food and drinks cans

If you regularly have more for recycling, additional boxes can be supplied. You can also put other recycling in carrier bags alongside boxes. And some flattened card can be put in cardboard boxes alongside.

Put metal lids inside food cans and, if possible, squash with care. Only empty aerosols with plastic caps removed.

For more information visit:
www.somersetwaste.gov.uk
 01935 425 477
 01935 425 570

Somerset Waste Partnership



Food recycling

It really does make a difference



Recycled on recycled paper

Improving your food recycling service

We are making it easier and cheaper for you to recycle your food waste. We are trialling the provision of free caddy liners in your area to encourage everyone to use the food recycling service more. The roll of liners delivered to you should last for about 3 months.

What food can I recycle in my caddy?

Remember, you can include food in your recycling bin that you can't compost at home, including raw and cooked meat and fish. Also include paper kitchen towel and paper with food remains.

Egg waste	All uneaten food and plate scrapings	Dairy products Cheese Eggs	Bread Cakes Pastries
Raw meat	Tea bags Coffee grounds	Raw vegetables Cooked vegetables Whole fruit Feedings	
Cooked meat Bones	Rice Pasta Breadcrumbs	Remember to recycle your ready and out of date food (including ready meals) - remove packaging.	
Raw fish Cooked fish Bones			

Please do not put any of these materials in your caddy

- ✗ Packaging of any kind
- ✗ Liquids such as milk
- ✗ Oil or liquid fat
- ✗ Any material that is not food waste

Using your food recycling collection



1. Line your indoor caddy with one of the free liners supplied. You can use your own caddy and also other compostable liners or newspaper.



2. When the liner is almost full, tie the top and put it in your outside food recycling bin. This bin locks by moving the handle to the front as below.



More liners for your kitchen caddy

Information on obtaining more caddy liners will be posted online by 15 May 2015 at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/liners. Guidance will also be delivered to those puffing out food waste bins during late May and June 2015.

To sign-up for email updates, please visit www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/liners

Reasons to recycle food waste

Q. Why recycle food waste?

A. Recycling your food waste is better for the environment. If put in your refuse bin, food waste goes to landfill where it rots and gives off methane, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide, which contributes to global warming and climate change.

Q. How is my food waste recycled?

A. Your food waste will be turned into something useful, if you recycle it. The food waste is taken to a special processing plant at Welpole near Bridgwater where it is used to generate electricity and to produce a safe compost material which is used on local farms.

Q. How can I waste less food?

A. For tips and recipes to help you waste less food and save money, visit lovefoodhatewaste.com

Weekly recycling collections

Recycling and food waste collections are both weekly on the same day. See website or call to check your collection day.

Put out by 7am on your collection day and no earlier than the night before. If you need a kitchen caddy, outside food recycling bin or recycling boxes, please order online at www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/collections/containers/order or call 01935 462 462



Recycling containers order form

Complete your contact details overhead and container order below.

Food waste bins (tick below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outside bin with handle (brown 23 litres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kitchen caddy (brown 5 litres)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recycling boxes (tick below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green box (44 litres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black box (55 litres)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Return to:	Freeport RSAU-IGAC-EHE, Somerset Waste Partnership Mornmouth House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton TA1 2PX				