

NORTH SOMERSET

ISSUE 138 – MARCH/APRIL 2018

LIFE



Help out of
homelessness

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Dear reader,



Many thanks to everyone who wrote or phoned to comment on my last article, about disagreeing with Government priorities at a time we are all losing important local services. You may have read recently that Northampton County Council officially declared it can no longer pay for its services. Someone had to be the first and I am sure there will be more, so it will be crucial to all of us to see how the Government responds.

There has been a lot of national media interest in homelessness recently and here in the West, the BBC did a programme on Weston-super-Mare's situation. I have often watched celebrities and reporters spending a night or two sleeping rough but find it patronising. Knowing it is short term, and you have a job and home to go back to, misses the point of the despair of genuine rough sleepers who see no end to their circumstances. It was reported that there are 20 homeless on the streets of Weston. Not true – there are seven and they are known to all the agencies who go out every night to help them. I agree it is seven too many but council staff, health workers, churches and voluntary agencies do everything they can to look after their health and make sure they are fed and try to provide accommodation if they want it.

North Somerset Council spent £400,000 last year caring for rough sleepers and preventing 633 households from becoming homeless in the first place. No-one should have to be in that dreadful situation but it is irresponsible to misreport the facts for the sake of a sensational story. It does not help those in real need. See page 10 for more information.

The most common question I get asked is, 'Why does North Somerset grant planning permission for so many houses?'

We have a team of experienced planners who calculate our need over the next 20 years. Our decisions then go to a government appointed inspector who looks at our calculations and talks to the developers for their view.

As most land in North Somerset is owned or optioned by developers, it is hardly surprising they constantly argue for more. The Government also wants to see more homes built, so inspectors invariably increase the number we have to provide sites for. However, if developers convince the inspector that there is a need for more, why don't they actually build them?

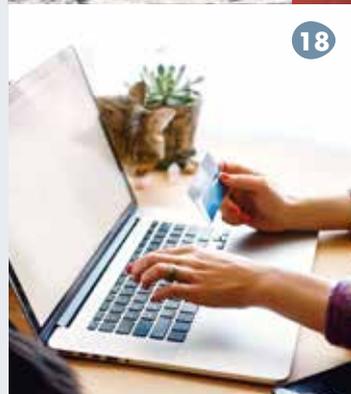
Arguing for more permissions when there are existing ones still to be built causes understandable anger in many of our towns and villages, which see the possibility of hundreds of new homes destroying their community and taking many years to complete, with very few basic amenities included. I regularly protest to ministers that we cannot cope and do not need the numbers they are forcing on us.

The present minister can be contacted at sajid.javid@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Councillor Nigel Ashton, 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 Shared Lives carer?

Caring residents who could offer support and accommodation in their own home are invited to step forward and make a real difference in someone's life.

North Somerset Council is looking for people to join its Shared Lives scheme, where residents provide care to an adult with a learning disability, people living with dementia, older people, those with a mental health difficulty or physical or sensory impairments.

Carers support the adult to live a full and meaningful life, whether this is a full-time placement, respite care or day support.

Carers are paid, trained and receive ongoing support.



Shared Lives: 01934 427 600
www.LD4U.org.uk

Have your say on council's new vision for adult care services



A new vision for providing adult care services has been drafted by North Somerset Council and residents can now have their say on it.

Providing quality social care which promotes wellbeing and ensures the best possible outcomes for people is getting more and more challenging.

Government funding has been falling while the population is growing and people are living longer with more complex conditions.

This is also happening during a time of rapid social, economic and technological change.

North Somerset Council wants to promote wellbeing by helping residents to be as independent as possible for as long possible.

It has identified four levels of independence and for each level, a different offer is provided.

Now people are being invited to have their say on this new strategy.

Read the full document and have your say at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/scv

Organisations or groups can ask for a council officer to come and hear their views directly during the consultation period.

To do this, contact Alun Davies on alun.davies@n-somerset.gov.uk or **01275 884 033**. Also contact Alun if you need the document in a different format.

The consultation ends on **Friday 23 March**.

Information and advice about crime online

Young people who want non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality can find out more thanks to a new website.

The website – www.fearless.org – is a portal which gives young people the opportunity to report anonymously about crime and disorder that they maybe wouldn't want to go to the police or another professional about directly.

It also has a directory of information about what means what in the world of crime, the consequences of getting caught-up with the law, and knowing where to turn if they need further help or support.



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Support from the MS Society

Social events and support are available from the North Somerset branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society for anyone living with MS.

Members meet monthly for a coffee morning at Cadbury Garden Centre, Congresbury. The next meeting, which includes a free drink, is on Wednesday 7 March.

Monthly lunch meetings are also held in Weston-super-Mare. For information about dates and venues contact co-ordinator Sandie Cheshire on **07527 082 017**.



The society also holds a Thursday exercise class at @ Worle, in New Bristol Road. For more details and to book call Janet on **01934 708 327**.

The branch works with Citizens Advice Bristol to support its members to make sure they are getting any financial help to which they are entitled. For more information contact Caroline Langdon on **0117 946 2560** or email MSadvice@bristolcab.org.uk

The MS Society can also give grants towards items that may be needed as a result of the condition. Contact Phil Sinclair on **0800 111 4780** to find out if you qualify.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help the North Somerset branch, for a minimum of two hours a month, contact Richard on **01934 622 461**.

Lend a listening ear

More volunteers are needed to lend their ear and support people who are struggling to cope.

The Weston-super-Mare branch of Samaritans currently has 47 listening volunteers but more are needed to handle the increased volume of calls.

Branch director Joe said: "We are desperate for new volunteers.

"The recent introduction of a free-call number means the number has soared.

"We are much busier than we used to be so there could be times when calls go unanswered and this is unacceptable.

"If you have just a few hours a week to spare, then we would love to hear from you."

Volunteers offer round-the-clock emotional support for anyone who needs to talk.

Regular information sessions are held for people to find out more.

Visit the charity's base in the High Street, opposite the entrance to Grove Park, from 10am to noon on these Saturdays: 10 March, 14 April, 12 May and 9 June.

During these sessions people can find out what being a Samaritan means and sign up for a training course.



To find out more contact Gill on **07507 990 599** or samaritansrecruitmentwsm@yahoo.com



Painting the town purple

Purple Flag status has been awarded to Weston-super-Mare's town centre for the third year.

The prestigious Purple Flag standard – similar to the Green Flag for parks and Blue Flag for beaches – identifies town and city centres that offer an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.

Assessors highlighted a number of elements they were impressed with, including the continuing strength of partnership working, the development of the MAVISbus Safe Space, and the town centre regeneration which will continue to improve the town's after dark appeal.

 /SaferStrongerNS  @SaferStrongerNS

Comment on council consultations

Have your say on North Somerset Council's policies by taking part in consultations. All consultations are listed at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult and it is an opportunity for residents to tell the council what they really think.

Sign-up online to receive email alerts when new consultations are opened.

For people who can't get online, at the beginning of every month posters are put up in all North Somerset libraries and council connect points, such as the Castlewood office in Clevedon, to publicise the live consultations and how to take part.

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/consult

Youth exchange this month

Host families are needed for young people visiting Weston-super-Mare from Germany this month.

The Hildesheim youth exchange, which is run by the YMCA Somerset Coast and supported by the town council, will be welcoming more than 30 12 to 17-year-olds from Friday 16 to Wednesday 28 March.

The return trip for Weston young people will be in the October school holiday. Organisers are keen to hear from anyone from Weston who would like the opportunity to join the exchange and visit the twinned German town.



Leader Debbie Stone said: "All the adults and young people involved in the exchange from Hildesheim speak brilliant English and are very welcoming and friendly.

"It would be brilliant if we could enable more young people from Weston to experience this opportunity."

For more information contact Debbie on **01934 429 036** or email debbiestone67@btinternet.com

Ashbrooke House School & Pre-School

Successfully educating children aged 3 to 11 in Weston since 1953.

We are an independent school, able to enrich and widen the standard curriculum across all year groups to further enhance children's education and enjoyment.

Children enjoy coming to school and thrive in the safe and caring environment.

'Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning. They are highly motivated and very keen to deepen and broaden their knowledge.'

'The curriculum is both broad and balanced. It provides a very enriching experience for pupils. It helps them to become confident, inquisitive learners.' Ofsted 2018

To find out more call **01934 629 515** or visit www.AHSandPS.co.uk



Our children don't fit in, they stand out!

'Pupils' behaviour is outstanding. They show respect and courtesy to each other, teachers and visitors.' Ofsted 2018

Contact us for a visit and find out why Weston's only Independent school is Ofsted rated Outstanding for Personal development, behaviour and welfare.



'building the foundations for life, in a safe and caring environment.'

Charity needs daffodil volunteers

Daffodils are sprouting everywhere now and one charity is using the springtime flower to help spread the word about its work.

Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal runs this March and North Somerset people are being invited to volunteer to collect donations.

Money raised from the appeal helps Marie Curie nurses provide care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their loved ones at home in North Somerset.

The national appeal is now in its 32nd year and has raised more than £74m since 1986.



To volunteer to collect for Marie Curie and support the Great Daffodil Appeal call Helen on **01179 247 275** or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil

Physical activity opportunities for all

Almost one in five people in England have a long-term limiting impairment, disability or illness.

Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be inactive as non-disabled people so there are a variety of inclusive activities on offer in North Somerset for people to get out and about.

This includes multisports for children in Portishead, football and badminton in Clevedon, walking in Weston-super-Mare, and more.

Coaches, sport administrators, volunteers and front-of-house staff are also being invited to take part in a new course aimed at helping people to deliver sessions. The Mental Health Awareness in Sport and Physical Activity course has been designed by Mind and Sports Coach UK and runs from 6-9pm on Tuesday 10 April at Castlewood in Clevedon.

For more information contact the sport and active lifestyles team on **01275 882 731** or sport@n-somerset.gov.uk



For information about inclusive activity sessions visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sportarray



St Monica Trust

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 **www.stmonicastrust.org.uk/where-we-do-it/sandford-station** into your browser.

Registered Charity 202151

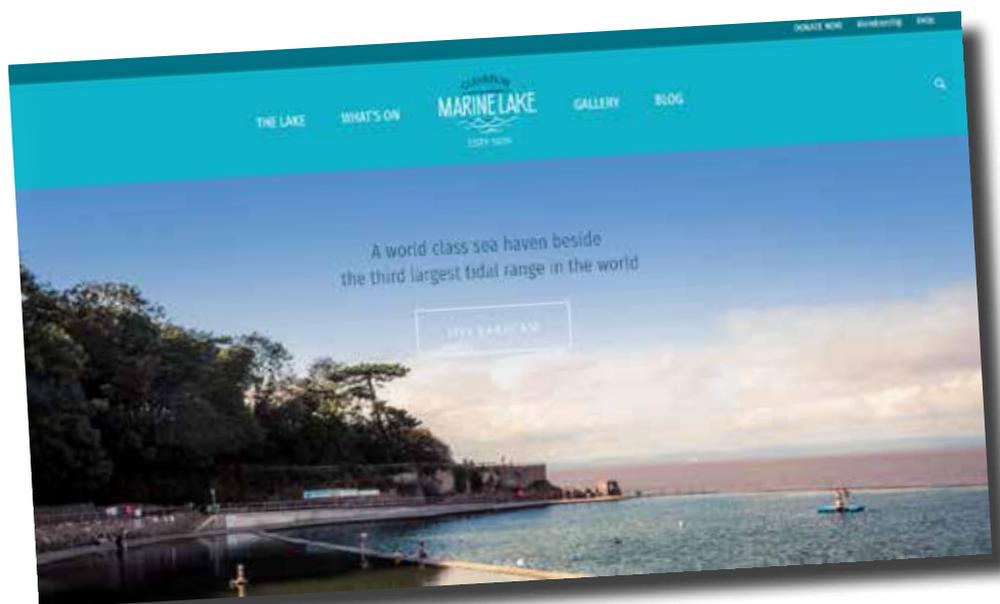
New website for Clevedon's popular Marine Lake

Visitors to Clevedon's Marine Lake can find a host of information to make the most of their visit thanks to a new website.

The site – **www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk** – contains information about the lake, news and events, photos and streaming live footage from the site.

Clevedon Marine Lake opened in 1929 and it is now run for the community as a heritage public space.

www.clevedonmarinelake.co.uk



Preventing homelessness and support for rough sleepers

Hundreds of households in North Somerset are saved from homelessness every year.

During 2016/17 a total of 633 households were successfully prevented from becoming homeless.

North Somerset Council's housing advice team spends about £400,000 a year providing services for homeless people, including rough sleepers.

A variety of methods are used including...

- resolving benefit problems
- negotiating with family and friends
- providing tenancy support for clients struggling with their tenancy
- mediation between a landlord and tenant
- working closely with other agencies and departments such as domestic abuse services, mental health teams, social care teams, and more.

The team also provides accommodation for homeless vulnerable people and families.

During 2016/17, 273 households were provided with temporary accommodation and 520 households were helped into long-term housing, either as a way of preventing their homelessness or as a move on from temporary housing.

People can become homeless for a variety of complex reasons and, unfortunately, accommodation alone is not enough to resolve the underlying issues which need a range of support services.

North Somerset Council's housing advice team also works closely with a range of partners to help rough sleepers access support and accommodation, week-in, week-out.

The council commissions homeless charity St Mungo's to provide welfare checks and outreach support services to people who are sleeping rough.

The YMCA also provides outreach services so this means that someone

is available in North Somerset five days a week to provide support, advice and welfare checks.

Lynn Trigg, North Somerset Council's housing advice team manager, said: "On the whole, rough sleeper numbers are very low and people begging can often be mistaken for rough sleepers."

Early morning walks are carried out by St Mungo's and the YMCA to identify and offer support to genuine rough sleepers.

The council and outreach workers also take referrals from Streetlink, a service which members of the public, rough sleepers or agencies can contact to report a rough sleeper.

Lynn said: "There are a whole range of organisations in North Somerset who work together to ensure that rough sleepers can access daily meals, health care, drug and alcohol services, get help accessing accommodation, and more."



Somewhere to Go

Somewhere to Go is a support centre in Weston-super-Mare which offers a safe place for rough sleepers and disadvantaged adults to go three times a week.

It serves 30-40 meals each day it is open and provides activities such as table tennis.

One visitor said: "Whenever I am down on my luck, they are there for me.

"I come in here and I'm not so isolated. It's for anyone who needs help."



"Organisations meet every week as part of North Somerset Street Community Forum to ensure opportunities are not missed for individuals to get the support they need."

"If the individual is not local to the area they will be offered help to reconnect to an area where they may have better access to services."

Unfortunately in some cases, individuals become involved in antisocial behaviour and where this happens, community safety partners will take action to protect public safety.

Currently, there are no direct access night shelters in the area but Lynn will be the council representative on a new working group established to look at the feasibility of setting one up in Weston-super-Mare.

The council has also adopted government guidance and offers emergency accommodation to anyone rough sleeping during a spell of particularly cold weather, outside of its usual statutory duties.

Working together

About 60 people who have an interest in homelessness were recently brought together at an event hosted by North Somerset Council and St Mungo's.

Individuals, volunteers and agencies shared information and took part in workshops during the event, which was well received by those who attended.

Feedback from this event will be used to help form an action plan for the new Single and Street Homeless Partnership, which includes a cross section of homelessness organisations.

How you can help

Landlords who would consider letting their property to one of the many households the council helps each year, can contact the team on **01934 426 483** or **lettingsteam@n-somerset.gov.uk** to discuss incentives and support. See page 40 for more information.



Anyone concerned about a rough sleeper should contact StreetLink, the national rough sleeping helpline, which alerts local services: **0300 500 0914** or **www.streetlink.org.uk**

An In Crisis leaflet has been produced by local charity Keysteps, which helps to house homeless people. Visit **www.wdgb.org.uk/in-crisis-leaflet** for details of organisations which can help homeless and vulnerable people.

Anyone wanting to make a donation to Somewhere to Go or find out more about their work can visit **www.somewheretogo.org.uk**

For more information about how the council supports homeless people or households at risk of homelessness, contact the council's housing advice team on **01934 426 330** or visit **www.n-somerset.gov.uk/homeless**.

Could you provide a caring home for a child?



Many young people in North Somerset need somewhere to live where they can feel safe, loved and accepted for who they are.

There are about 230 children and young people at any time in the local area who need a new home after experiencing hardship.



As a result, more people are needed to step forward as foster carers and help support these young people to recover from their experiences.

Clare McCarthy, a social worker with North Somerset Council, said: "Due to a shortage of local carers, children are often placed in expensive private foster placements far from home.

"The children are already struggling with the loss of their parents but this means they also have to cope with a change of school and the loss of friends and familiar people."

However, fostering with North Somerset Council means children can remain living locally.

Many looked-after children are also able to keep in contact with their parents and family, which can help them have a stronger sense of identity and feel secure with their foster family.

Being a foster carer can be difficult and a challenging role so patient and committed people are needed who have experience of parenting, caring or working with children.

Potential carers must also be willing to attend regular training and support sessions to build skills in caring for children who have experienced trauma or considerable life challenges.

Clare added: "Every child that goes into foster care is there for a different reason and at times you may have to empathise as to why they are upset or stressed.

"Don't give up, no matter how hard it is. When the children have grown up you will realise what a difference you have made to their lives."

Who are the children needing foster care?

Children and young people who need foster care come from a range of backgrounds.

Life takes a look at some of the children who have recently been placed or are in need of a family (names and some details have been changed).



Arthur

Arthur, aged nine, was removed from his parents when he was five because he witnessed domestic abuse and excessive alcohol use.

He lived with his gran until she became ill so has been living with temporary foster carers in Reading for the past 11 months due to a lack of local carers.

Long-term foster carers are now needed in North Somerset so Arthur can see his gran and friends. He has experienced trauma, feels a huge sense of shame, and believes no-one wants to love or care for him. However, he is lovable, energetic and playful, and loves animals, cars and rugby.

Arthur struggles to trust people so will need an experienced, patient and calm carer who can be his emotional anchor and help him cope with his feelings when he is overwhelmed.



Jenny

Jenny's mum is a single parent with a history of drug misuse who needs to show she can care for herself and her newborn daughter properly.



In the meantime, Jenny will need lots of warmth, love and affection from a foster carer.

It will be important for Jenny to have plenty of contact with her mum while decisions are being made, so her carer will need to be supportive of this.

If Jenny cannot return to her mum or a family member, adoptive parents will need to be found.

Jenny's carer will need to be resilient and appreciate their part in her young life, as saying goodbye will be a huge challenge.

Robert and Hannah

Eight-year-old Robert and his six-year-old sister Hannah have been in foster care for four years.

Initially it was hoped they would return home but their dad could not keep them safe so they had to return to foster care.

A search for adoptive parents wasn't successful so now Robert and Hannah desperately need long-term foster carers who can commit to them until they are 18.

Despite this loss, rejection and uncertainty, Rob and Hannah are very close but can still squabble at times like any brother and sister.



Trai

Trai was trafficked from an orphanage in Vietnam and abused by his captors during his eight-month journey to the UK.



Police found him hidden in the back of a lorry and now the 15-year-old has no family and is anxious.

However, Trai is also humble, thankful and feels most comfortable when he is allowed to help his carer with household chores.

He needs a patient, committed carer who is sensitive to his cultural needs and can support him to relax and enjoy his adolescence.

Trai needs help to learn English and support to do well at school to make a happy and successful transition to life in Britain.

Anyone with experience in parenting, caring or working with children and young people is invited to get in touch and find out more about fostering in North Somerset.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/fostering or call 01275 888 999  @FosteringNS  /fosteringnorthsomerset

Cineworld opens its doors



Film fans can now watch the latest blockbusters at a state-of-the-art multiplex in Weston-super-Mare.



Cineworld general manager Emma Poppleton at the opening

Cineworld opened at Dolphin Square in January with a gala event.

The eight-screen multiplex is the latest opening at the £18m leisure complex and has brought 35 new jobs to the local economy.

Emma Poppleton, general manager of Weston Cineworld, said: "I am extremely excited to be part of the Dolphin Square development.

"The cinema looks incredible and I am really enjoying welcoming the people of Weston-super-Mare and surrounding areas through our doors."

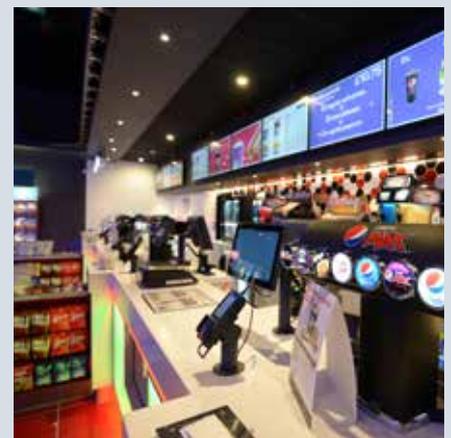


Cineworld joins Nando's, Luda Bingo and Pizza Express which all opened in the last few months, with Anytime Fitness, Rock Up, Loco Mexicano and Prezzo to follow shortly.

Dolphin Square plays a key part in Weston's town centre regeneration programme, which will see improvements to key development sites and infrastructure projects, and positively encourage investment within the town.

Key facts

- total seating capacity of the cinema is 1,500
- largest screen capacity is 339
- smallest screen capacity is 135
- 35 staff have been recruited from the local area
- there are four 3D-capable screens
- there are three live event screens for screening cultural events such as opera.



The vision is to focus on the themes of living, learning and lifestyle, with plans to attract more people to live in the town centre creating a lively, university town which will further improve the local economy.

New app highlights Weston's history

Follow clues to find historic landmarks in and around Weston-super-Mare with a new smartphone app.



The Crumbs City Trail app, launched as part of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) project, takes users on a walking route scattered with clues and trivia questions based on the history of the seaside town.

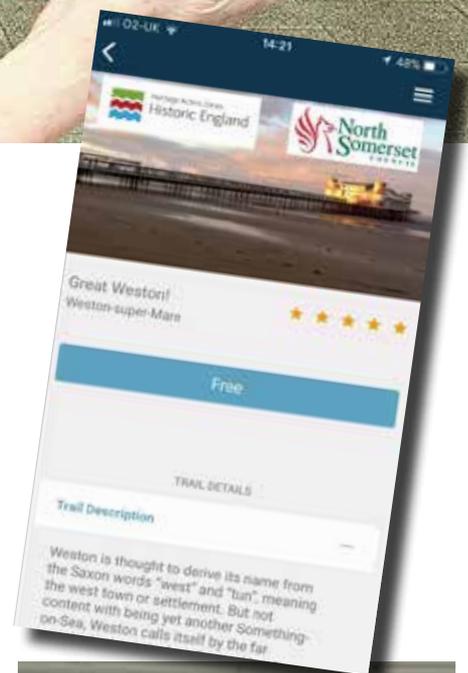
HAZ project officer Cara MacMahon said: "The idea of the walk was to create an activity which combines the fun elements of a treasure hunt, with some interesting facts for people to read as they go round our beautiful town.

"There are so many hidden historic gems in Weston. This app allows users to look up and around at our stunning architecture that we often miss in our day-to-day lives."

Walking is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to exercise and it is hoped that the 90 minute trail will appeal to those who want a fun way to exercise and also learn a little about the history and culture of Weston as they go.

Weston was awarded HAZ status by Historic England.

North Somerset Council successfully bid for £600,000 of funding which will be used over the next three years to develop initiatives which will encourage people to understand more about the historic gems in the town and support the regeneration of the town centre.





Businesses benefiting from Hinkley project

Construction of the multi-billion pound nuclear power plant Hinkley Point C is now under way and businesses in North Somerset are already reaping the rewards.

EDF Energy has partnered with Somerset Chamber of Commerce to manage the Hinkley Supply Chain Team - a way for small local businesses to become part of the project.

North Somerset Council is supporting this so local businesses can maximise the opportunities.

Funding has also been received from the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership for a three-year business support and inward investment programme, meaning North Somerset suppliers can receive additional support.

Businesses which register with the supply chain team are matched with the requirements of the project.

Companies are kept up-to-date on the latest information from the site, including new contracts being awarded, and can benefit from business support from a range of organisations.

North Somerset businesses are already benefiting...

CMC

Small businesses working together can compete with huge multi-national companies, as one Clevedon company has discovered.

Simon Farr and Gervase Winn, founders of Cam Machine Components (CMC), put their aspirations of working at Hinkley Point C to one side until a word of

encouragement changed everything.

Gervase said: "We've had a successful 10 years, gradually growing the business to meet demand from all over the country."

The company works across multiple sectors, including automotive, agriculture, oil and gas.

Gervase said: "When we heard what was happening at Hinkley Point C we recognised it could be a great opportunity but, with so many huge companies on site, we didn't see a straightforward opening."

However, they met an EDF Energy representative who asked them if they'd ever considered joining forces with other local businesses to form a consortium.



As a result, Advanced Precision Engineering Consortium (APEC) was formed and six companies now work as a coherent, united organisation.

The members are Technical Inspection Services, Berry and Escott, TMB Patterns, Metaltech Precision Engineering and Amitec.

Under the banner of APEC, CMC was invited onto the site to meet representatives of Premier Modular, a firm building temporary accommodation units which needed a supply of bolts.

Simon added: "That was on the Tuesday. By Wednesday we'd produced the specified samples, which were delivered on Thursday morning, and by the end of the following week we'd received an order for 1,000 units.

"To businesses considering the opportunities at Hinkley Point C, I would say don't be despondent and think you can't win work there, because you definitely can."



Plantforce

Plantforce is the leading regional supplier of plant hire machinery to the construction and energy industries.

The company formed in 1999 in Yatton but has since relocated its headquarters to Weston-super-Mare.

It supplies everything from self-drive mini diggers to 52-tonne excavators.

Project manager Geoff Wyatt said: "I'm very proud to say it was one of our excavators that dug that very first trench at the site some six years ago.

"Hinkley is easily the largest construction project the South West has ever seen and, as a local company, we just knew it was something we had to be involved with."

Plantforce employs about 80 people on site and the stringent health and safety rules has also made the company reassess the entire way it looks at operations.

Geoff added: "While we have, of course, always had a focus on health and safety, working at Hinkley Point C has taken us to a whole new level."

Technical Inspection Services

Clevedon-based Technical Inspection Services (TIS) launched in the 1980s and its association with Hinkley Point stretches back decades.

The company provides non-destructive testing to the UK's major industries – originally coal power stations and now nuclear, aerospace, shipping and construction.

Non-destructive testing is a group of techniques and procedures used to investigate the properties of a component without altering or causing damage to the material.

This might include radiography, gamma, ultrasonic or magnetic particle inspection among others.

TIS worked on the first Hinkley Point A, then Hinkley Point B, and now the Hinkley Point C project.

It is currently testing the welding on boiler tubes for biomass power plants, as well as huge metal piles being driven into the ground to create part of the jetty.

TIS has also joined APEC to meet like-minded businesses in the region.

Chief executive Ken Stockham said: "The formation of the consortium has led to us winning other pieces of work outside Hinkley Point C, so it's been an excellent way to seek out and tender for new contracts."



A support programme is helping businesses prepare for opportunities with Hinkley C.

Any business which would like to find out more can visit www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk or email office@hinkleysupplychain.co.uk



Council tax bills arriving soon



Council tax bills will be going out to households across North Somerset this month.

Last month councillors set the budget and council tax levels for the new financial year and, at the time of *Life* going to print, a rise of 2.99 per cent was expected.

This 2.99 per cent figure comes after central government increased the cap on what local councils could bill for.

It also follows the rate of inflation, which rose to a six-year high of 3.1 per cent in November but went down slightly to three per cent in December.

On top of the council's 2.99 per cent increase, there is an additional three per cent levy which will be ring-fenced to meet the growth and increasing costs of adult social care.

The pressures and demands of adult social care is a national issue and as the population ages there are many more people living with long-term and complex health conditions.

At the same time, central government has dramatically reduced the amount of funding it gives to local councils since austerity measures began in 2010.

Back then, nearly 40 per cent of the council's income came from central government grants but by 2020 this funding will account for just one per cent.

This means the council will need to become financially self-sufficient.

North Somerset Council has a good track record of managing its money efficiently and it has incorporated £90m of revenue savings into its budget since 2010.

But this is getting more and more difficult and for the new financial year, additional savings of £11m had to be found to balance the books.

A WEEKLY SHOP

This year's anticipated rise of 2.99 per cent, plus the 3 per cent adult social care levy, would mean an average household (Band D) would pay £1,341.63 in 2018/19 for North Somerset Council's share of the council tax bill – about £25.80 a week.

This pays for services such as recycling and waste collection, schools, roads and transport, libraries, looked-after children, residential and nursing care, parks, environmental health, housing advice, and many more.

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS	£56.80
TRANSPORT	£72.70
RECREATION AND CULTURE	£68
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	£23.50
NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL	£25.80
HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES	£35.50
HEALTH	£7.20
HOUSING (NET), FUEL AND POWER	£72.50

Source: Weekly family spending in the UK: financial year ending March 2016 (ONS)

What is council tax?

Council tax is a property tax levied by local councils to top up the funding they receive from central government.



It pays for a wide range of services - including education, planning, transport, highways, social care, public health, libraries, leisure and recreation, recycling and waste collection, environmental health, trading standards and many more.

By 2020, it is anticipated that council tax will make up almost three-quarters of North Somerset Council's income, as grants from central government reduce to just one per cent.

North Somerset Council also collects the charges for Avon and Somerset Police Authority, Avon Fire and Rescue, and town and parish councils. North Somerset Council has no control over the amount, or percentage increase, of these other elements of the bill.



Join the thousands of people paying their council tax online

More than 20,000 people now receive their council tax bills online as a quick and easy way of sorting their finances.

The online council tax and benefits service is accessed through North Somerset Council's website and once registered, it gives instant access to old bills.

It also cuts down on the amount of post you receive so saves the council postage costs and means the money can be spent on other services which need it the most.

Once set up, you can apply for benefits, discounts or exemptions, let the council know about a change of circumstances, set up a direct debit, or view your account balance, among other services.

For customers who have difficulty getting online or have additional needs, support is available. Visit the Town Hall, in Weston-super-Mare, your local library, or call 01934 888 144

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/myaccount



Employment and benefits advice **under one roof**



A 'one stop shop' for employment and benefits advice is proving popular in Clevedon thanks to the range of organisations on-hand to offer support.

The shared space opened at North Somerset Council's Castlewood office at the end of last year and offers many services under one roof - including the council's employment and skills team, Weston College, Alliance Homes, public health professionals, and council tax and benefits advisers.

This has created a holistic approach for people who want help claiming Universal Credit, support for personal budgeting, are enquiring about housing benefit or council tax, or want to use one of nine public computers to make a claim or apply for a job.

More specialist help is also available, including coaches to help jobseekers back into work, advice about business start-ups, self-employment and work experience, or advice for 16 to 17-year-olds about gaining employment or returning to learning.

Clevedon register office has also relocated into a new office within Castlewood.

Register service

There is a meet-and-greet service, quiet waiting area, better internet connection and direct dial phone to the customer service team who can give advice and book appointments.

People who are supported by the jobcentre, housing and benefits service, Alliance Homes or the council's education, employment and training team can also take advantage of the health trainer service.

Book an appointment to find out about getting more active, cutting down on alcohol, eating healthily, losing weight or stopping smoking.



Opening times

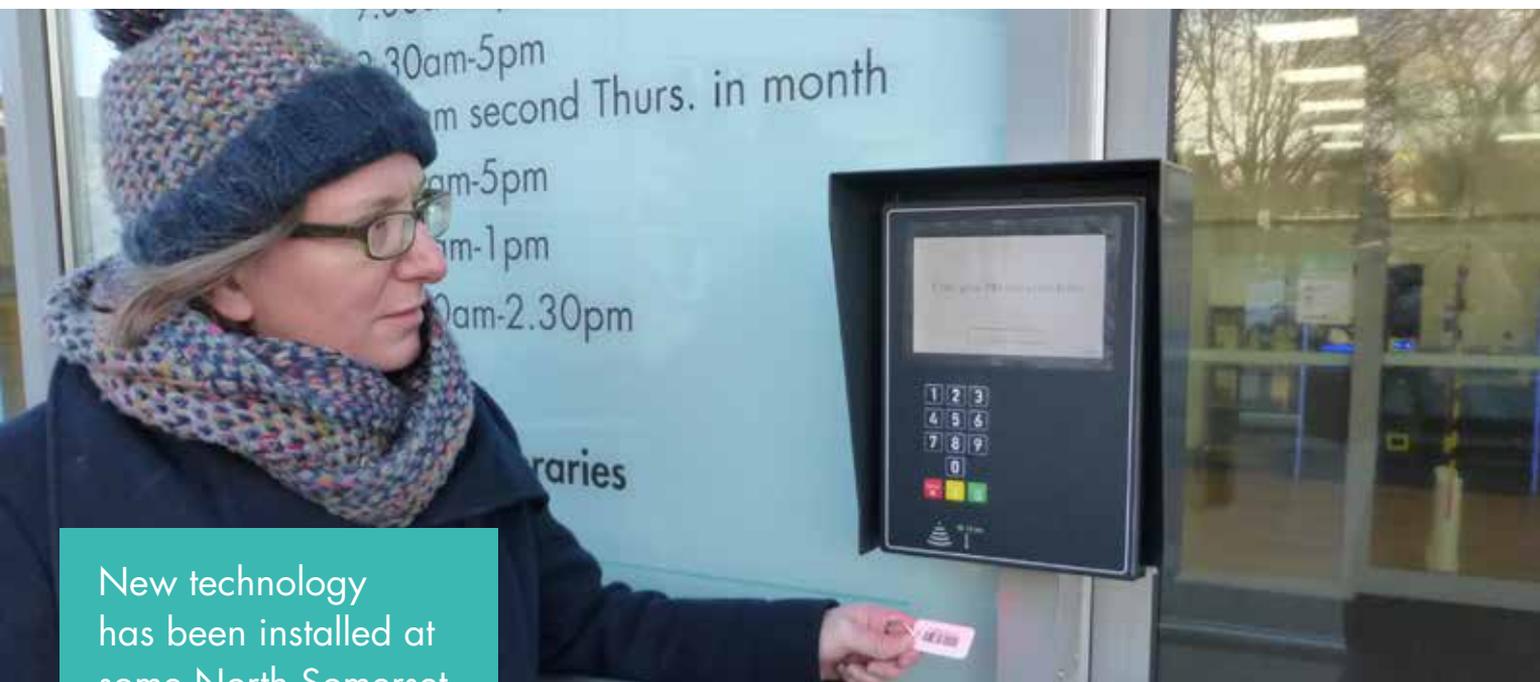
- **Jobcentreplus** - 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 10am-5pm Wednesdays
- **Registration service** - 9am-12.30pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Monday to Friday; 2-4pm Tuesdays
- **Council and police enquiries** - 8.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday
- **Housing benefit surgeries** - 9am-1pm Monday, 9am-4pm Tuesday, 10am-1pm Wednesday, 9am-1pm Thursday and Friday (first come, first served)
- **Health trainer appointments** are held 9am to noon on Fridays. Call 01275 885 141, email health.trainers@n-somerset.gov.uk or visit www.facebook.com/nshealthtrainer

"The new premises are welcoming and inviting."

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

People on a low income or claiming benefits can still get support to help pay their council tax. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/counciltax

Self-service access to libraries launches



New technology has been installed at some North Somerset libraries to extend opening hours on a self-service basis.

Portishead and Winscombe libraries, as well as Worle and Yatton's joint libraries and children's centres, are now open longer thanks to the new technology, giving people more time to browse and borrow items.

Opening hours at all four libraries have more than doubled.

This means people can access facilities earlier in the mornings, later in the evenings and for longer at weekends.

This should appeal to...

- parents calling in after the school run
- 9-to-5 workers dropping by more easily on their way home
- students, with study space available for longer, providing a space away from distractions at home

- community groups having increased access to informal meeting space.

To use extended access, library members must be over 15 years of age, have signed-up to use the scheme, and attended an induction session.

The session includes a demonstration of how to gain entry, how to use the available equipment and what to do in an emergency.

Children and young people under 15 can use the library during extended access as long as they are accompanied by a parent or carer who has attended an induction.

To sign up for an induction, visit www.eventbrite.co.uk, search for your local library name, and choose the event that suits you. Alternatively, a library staff member can book you in.

If you're not already a library member, now could be the perfect time to sign-up.

Extended access is already used in more than 480 libraries across the country, including some in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

It comes to North Somerset as part of the council's Community Access Review, a major review of the buildings and services in the community, with particular focus on libraries and children's centres.



For opening hours of all libraries in North Somerset – including staffed and extended access – visit your local branch or www.n-somerset.gov.uk/libraries/extendedaccess

Easter railway upgrade

Rail passengers in North Somerset are being advised to allow extra time for their journeys this Easter.

Network Rail is undertaking the next phase of its Railway Upgrade Plan to improve reliability and meet growing demand, described as the most ambitious infrastructure modernisation programme since the Victorian era.

This signalling upgrade is being carried out in and around Bristol Temple Meads station to make way for a significant increase in train services and a more efficient network in the region.

The number of train passengers has doubled in the last 20 years and numbers are expected to double again over the next 25.

Great Western Railway (GWR) is introducing new trains across the network and is already providing more than 3,000 more seats than this time last year.

The new signalling system, along with further works in Filton later this year, will bring improved reliability and mean a reduction in delays.

New timetables from next year will see many more services across the region, including almost twice as many trains between Bristol and London Paddington.

Network Rail engineers have been installing new equipment since last autumn and will be installing, testing and activating 500 complex pieces of signalling equipment over five days this Easter weekend.

From 30 March (Good Friday) until the early hours of Wednesday 4 April, no trains will operate between Bristol Temple Meads and Weston-super-Mare.

There will also be no trains to Bath Spa, Bristol Parkway or Severn Beach.

In total, 20 train stations will be without rail services including local stations Nailsea and Backwell, Yatton, Worle and Weston Milton.

During this time, rail replacement bus services will be in operation.

An hourly bus service will operate between Weston-super-Mare and Bristol Parkway, calling at Weston Milton, Worle, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell, Bristol Temple Meads and all other intermediate stations.

Additional bus services will also operate direct from Weston-super-Mare to Bristol Parkway.

Some journey times may be longer than normal so passengers are advised to plan their journey carefully and allow extra time – particularly if commuting to work on Tuesday 3 April.

Travelling to Bristol Airport this Easter?

Allow extra time for your journey and visit www.bristolairport.co.uk for all the latest travel information.



Food festivals to get your taste buds tingling



Food and drink festivals have now become staple fixtures on North Somerset's events calendar with more and more people enjoying tasty treats of local produce.

The locally-focused, award-winning eat:Weston festival is returning to the Italian Gardens on Saturday 7 April and it promises to bring the best of Somerset to the town centre.

The free event, supported by Weston BID and North Somerset Council, features a large outdoor market as well as a range of other attractions.

At the Hawksmoor Cookery School stand, visitors can get hands-on and learn new skills, while the Retreat Demo Stage in the Sovereign Centre will have local chefs sharing their tips and techniques.

Sheep and tractors will also be on show along the High Street, with extra seating and lots of family entertainment.

The market will feature farmers' favourites such as cheese, cider and fresh produce, along with varied street food traders showcasing cuisines from around the world.

Vegan, gluten free and vegetarian options will all be available.

The festival is also 100 per cent single-use-plastic free and all trader waste is fully compostable, as a part of the SAS Cleaner Coastlines Campaign.

Organisers are also working with North Somerset Council's sustainability team with freebies for people who cycle to the festival.

The festival runs from 9am to 5pm on Saturday 7 April in the Italian Gardens.

More events are also planned throughout the year.

EAT:PORTISHEAD will take place around the marina on Saturday 11 August

EAT:WESTON will return to the Italian Gardens on Saturday 22 September

EAT:CHRISTMAS will take place in Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 15 December



www.eatfestivals.org

 /eatweston

Delving into Nailsea's industrial heritage

Meander down picturesque lanes and past pretty cottages to discover the industrial heritage of Nailsea.

The walk - courtesy of Nailsea and District Local History Society – features former colliery engine houses, pubs and a tannery before a brief jaunt through the fields on the western edge of town.

Walk information

Distance:
about 2.5 miles

Difficulty:
easy - a level, urban walk with a short detour through a couple of fields. Suitable footwear recommended.

Duration:
about 2 hours

Refreshments:
The Coffee Lounge at Holy Trinity Church is open 9am-1pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

How to get there

By car: Park considerably on-street along St Mary's Grove or nearby streets

By bus: X7, X8, X9 or 88

By train: Nailsea and Backwell station is about a 25 minute walk from the start of this walk.

For bus timetables visit www.travelinesw.com

Start at the 15th century Holy Trinity Church, in Church Lane. It has a tower typical to the area but the pinnacles weren't added until 1904. There are six bells, one from the former Bristol Gaol.

Opposite is the medieval Tithe Barn, now used as an events space. By 1791 it contained two school rooms, one belonging to local writer and philanthropist Hannah More.

You'll also pass Glebe Cottage, built for the schoolmaster and mistress.

Continue up Church Lane, past the church hall. The lane bears left, past a row of cottages.

In the middle is Nile Cottage, with a plaque showing the year 1798

to commemorate Nelson's victory over Napoleon's fleet at the Battle of the Nile. In 1844 it was a private school.

Follow the lane to the right as it becomes a footpath. Cross Queens Road with care and continue down the lane ahead of you, towards Goss Lane. Turn left at the end and right into Union Street.

Continue along Union Street, named after the Poor's House or 'Union', once part of the present Yew Tree Cottage.

Look out for Tall Cottage on your right, built in 1750 as part of the Shallow Grove Coal Pit. The kitchen wall is incorporated into a deep shaft.



www.ndlhs.org.uk



Further on is Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel (1856-1964), now the Little Theatre.

At the junction is Old Colliery Cottage, once two dwellings including the Colliers Arms beer house.

Opposite, where the (closed) public toilet block now stands, were the lock up, stocks and whipping post on the village green.

Turn left into North Street. On the right is Old Fire Station Court, a small development on the site of the 1934-71 building and tower.

Turn down the next lane on your right. At the bottom, behind a conifer hedge, is a white cottage.

Here lived John and Mary Whiting, very early members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) who were imprisoned for their beliefs several times in 1679.

Continue towards the junction with the Corner Stores opposite. On the left are two modern detached houses.

This site was the tannery, used between 1696 and 1890 to supply leather to a flourishing boot, clog and shoe cottage industry around Kingshill and Silver Street.

Take the track next to the houses, signposted public footpath.

Nailsea House is on your left and further on is Old Kingshill Court. When the farmhouse's thatched roof



was replaced, a receipt was found which possibly indicated some of Cromwell's commonwealth troops lodged here in 1643.

Retrace your steps back to the junction and turn left up Kingshill. Cross the road and go down the footpath alongside number 18.

The path passes the site of Kingshill Pit (1800-1820) and ends at Nailsea Social Club, once the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

Turn right and head towards the Moorend Spout pub. Head back up North Street, right into Firleaze, then left into North Lane.

You'll see another tall cottage, converted from a colliery engine house.

Follow the public footpath sign, which goes past the garden of number 8. Respecting the owner's privacy, go through the orchard with the hedge on your left, and exit through the gate.

Cross the brook over the stone stile, then follow the brook to the right, emerging onto Causeway.

A long strip of land is on your left, bought for a canal but never built. Continue left up Causeway, passing Causeway House.

At the bend in the road take the public footpath on the right, which skirts the edge of a stable.

Continue through the field, then cross the brook via a stile on your right.

Walk around the left edge of the next field and exit through a gate opposite onto Causeway View.

Follow the footpath and return to Old Kingshill Court and Nailsea House where you were earlier.

From here, retrace your steps back along Union Street to your starting point.



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LOCAL EVENTS

MARCH

Friday 9 and Saturday 10

Said and Done by Sugarscratch Theatre 7.30pm, The Theatre Shop, Triangle Centre, Clevedon. Observational humour about two women at a wedding who hate everyone there. £11. www.theatreshop.org.uk

Saturday 10

Portishead and District Horticultural Society's Spring Show 12.30-5pm, Folk Hall, High Street, Portishead. 50p for adults, free for children.

Tuesday 13 and Tuesday 20

Open workshops for Cheddar Male Choir Lynch Chapel, The Lynch, Winscombe. Just listen or join in. contactcheddar-malechoir@gmail.com

Friday 16

West Mendip Orchestra Spring Concert 7.45pm, Christchurch, Chapel Hill, Clevedon. A programme of music by English composers, including Walton's dramatic Spiffire. Tickets £10 on the door (conc £8, students £2)

Saturday 17 (2-5pm) and Sunday 18 (9.30am-2.30pm)

Weston Super Half Marathon, Beach Lawns. With 2km, 5km and 10km races on Saturday, and the half marathon on Sunday. www.westonsuperhalf.co.uk

Saturday 17

Then Again by Tremelo Theatre 7.30pm, The Theatre Shop, Triangle Centre, Clevedon. Millie accidentally invents a time machine. £11. Age 12+. www.theatreshop.org.uk

Nailsea Concert Orchestra's Spring Concert 7.30pm, Nailsea Methodist Church. Including Prokofiev's classical musical tale of Peter and the Wolf, narrated by John Telfer from The Archers. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions/£2.50 for under 18s) in advance from Nailsea Music Shop or on the door on the night.

Tuesday 20

Clevedon Music Club hosts the Dorian String Quartet 7.30pm, Teignmouth Room at Clevedon Community Centre. £9 at the door. 01275 879 099

Saturday 24

Portishead Choral Society with students from Gordano School. Gordano School hall. Handel's Messiah. www.portisheadchoral.co.uk

Saturday 31 and Sunday 1 April

Sea Cadets Pageant of Transport 10am-4pm, Beach Lawns, Weston-super-Mare. Display of classic and modern vehicles on the Beach Lawns. Free entry

Saturday 31 March – Monday 2 April

Art exhibition and sale – Sat and Sun, 10am-1 and 2.30-5pm; Mon 10am-1pm and 2.30-4.30pm, The Hawthorn's, Elton Road. In aid of Cystic Fibrosis Trust and the Lions Club of Clevedon's designated charities. Teas/coffees and Easter biscuits available.

APRIL

Saturday 7

Mendip Society walk to Cadbury Hill Fort. Meet 2pm in small car park at top of Henley Lane, Yatton. About 5 miles with some hills, woods, lanes. 01179 736 497



Wednesday 11 – Saturday 14

The Importance of Being Earnest by The Wayfarers Drama Group 7.30pm, Theatre in the Hut, Milton Road, Weston. £10 for adults, £8 children under 16. 07493 940 967 or www.wayfarersdrama.org.uk

Friday 20

Richard Lennox 3.30pm and 7pm, Clarence Park Baptist Church, Walliscote Road, Weston-super-Mare. Playing the music of Stephen Schwartz. Tickets from 01934 623 694

Sunday 22

Clevedon Lions Annual Charity Classic Vehicle Event Starts 10am Wyvale Garden Centre, finishing at Salthouse Fields. All classic vehicles – cars, motorbikes, vans, etc – over 25 years old can take part. In aid of Children's Hospice South West. Interested owners register at clevedonlions@gmail.com

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29

Portishead Royal Legion Men and Ladies Bowling Clubs Open Days 10.30am-4pm, Lake Grounds, Portishead. Coaching staff available and all equipment. 01275 845 837

MAY

Friday 18

All Sixties Night 8pm, Weston-super-Mare Football Club, Winterstoke Road. In aid of Weston Hospicecare. The Berries headlining. Tickets £10 from 01934 522 511



KEY: (E) Every • (A) Alternate • (1) First • (2) Second • (3) Third • (4) Fourth • (L) Last



REGULARS

Mondays

DB's Dance Club (E)
10-11am, Clevedon
Community Centre. Line
dancing.
01275 854 375

Latin and jive (E) (absolute
beginners 1-2pm, next
steps 2.15pm) St Peter's
Church Hall, Clevedon.
£5. 07940 823 581

Egyptian Bellydance (E)
(term time only) 7-8pm,
Backwell WI Hall, Station
Road. 01275 855 016

Easy Strollers line dancing
(E) 7-8pm (intermediate),
8-9pm (improvers),
Clevedon Triangle Club,
Old Church Road.
01275 875 235

Nailsea Scottish Dancers
(E) 8pm, Christchurch
Hall, Christchurch Close,
Nailsea. £2.50.
01275 790 937

Portishead Square
Dancers (E) 8-10pm, Folk
Hall, Portishead.
01275 817 964
£2.50 each class

Tuesdays

Social Morning with
Historic and Country
Dancing to Live Music
(E) 9.30-11.30am, Folk
Hall, Portishead. £3 per
person. 01275 847 909

Movement to Music (E)
10-11am, Methodist
Church, Portishead.
07899 754 937

DB's Dance Club social
tea dance (E) 2.30-5pm,
Clevedon Community
Centre. 01275 854 375

Ballroom and sequence
(E) 7.30-10.30pm, Town
and Country Lodge,
Bridgwater Road. With
or without a partner. £2.
0117 9778 200

Avon Dance Club (E)
8-10pm, Somerset Hall,
Portishead. Ballroom
and Latin practice night.
01934 823 128

Backwell Sequence
Dance Club (E)
8-10.15pm, WI Hall,
Backwell. £3 per person.
07710 460 550

Weston Folk Dance Club
(E) 8-10pm, Corpus
Christi Church Hall,
Weston-super-Mare.
01934 514 226

Brazilian carnival style
dance with live drummers
(E) 8-10pm, All Saint's
Hall Clevedon. Call
07780 641 427



Portishead LeRoc (E)
8-10.30pm, Portishead
Primary School, Station
Road. Modern jive.
07909 063 624
heather@portisheadleroc.
com

In Motion Dance (E)
8-11pm, Banwell Village
Hall. 07903 655 924.
www.in-motion-dance.
co.uk

Wednesdays

Easy Strollers line
dancing (E) improvers
9.15-10.15am, 1st
Clevedon Scout Hall,
Great Western Road.
01275 875 235

DB's Dance Club
line dancing (E)
10.45-11.45am,
Clevedon Community
Centre. 01275 854 375

Sequence tea dance (E)
2-4pm, Avonway Hall,
Portishead.
01934 644 745

Latin and jive (E) (absolute
beginners 7-8pm, next
steps 8.15pm) St Peter's
Church Hall, Clevedon.
£5. 07940 823 581

Easy Strollers line dancing
(E) beginners 7-8pm, 2nd
Clevedon Scout Hall,
Coleridge Vale Road
North

Abanico Salsa Classes (E)
7.30-10:30pm (3 classes,
beginners to improvers),
Clevedon Triangle Club.
Call in advance:
07971 565 406

50s and 60s rock 'n' roll
(E) 8pm-late, Tavern Inn
the Town, Regent Street,
Weston-super-Mare.
01934 412 826

Thursdays

Easy Strollers line dancing
(E) 9.15-10.15am
(improvers)
10.20-11.20am
(intermediate) 1st
Clevedon Scout Hall.
01275 875 235

Irish Set, English and
Scottish Country Dance
(E) 10am-noon, North
Weston Village Hall,
Portishead. £5.
01275 847 909.

New and Old Sequence
dance class (E) 10.30am-
12.30pm, Kewstoke
Village Hall.
07437 203 642

DB's Dance Club line
dancing (E) 11am-1pm,
Folk Hall, Portishead.
01275 854 375

Yatton Sequence Dance
Club (E) 2-4.30pm,
Claverham Village
Hall. 01275 851 221
Egyptian Bellydance
(E) (term time only)
6.45-7.45pm, St Saviours
Church Hall, Locking
Road, Weston-super-
Mare. 01275 855 016

Nailsea Le Roc (E)
8-10.30pm, Scotch Horn
Leisure Centre, Nailsea.
Beginners/intermediates.
£6. 07816 649 077

Fridays

Ballroom, Latin and
sequence dancing (E)
2-4.30pm, Kewstoke
Village Hall.
07437 203 642

North Somerset
Intercultural Dancing
Association (E)
7.45-9.30pm, Nailsea
Methodist Church, Silver
Street. Admission £2.
www.nida.site40.net

Clevedon Sequence
Dance Club (E)
7.45-10.30pm, Walton
St Mary's Church Hall.
01275 847 293

Social dance (1)
8-11.30pm, Somerset
Hall, Portishead. £5.
01275 831 884

Streetdance (2)(4)
7-8.30pm, Claverham
Village Hall. For 8-15-
year-olds.
01934 838 017

Social dance (4)
8-10.30pm, St. James
Hall, Winscombe. £4.
01934 516 852

Saturdays

Chelis Theatre Company
(E) 2-5pm St. Saviours
Church Hall, Weston-super-
Mare. Drama, dance
and singing for 6-18-year-
olds. 01934 625 301

Sundays

Avon Dance Club Tea
Dance (Monthly) 3-6pm,
Somerset Hall Portishead.
01934 823 128

Ballroom and sequence
(E) 7.30-10pm, Kewstoke
Village Hall.
07437 203 642

Social dancing (E)
7.30-10.30pm, Hutton
Moor Leisure Centre,
Weston-super-Mare. £5.
01934 518 529 www.
westonsocialdancing.
co.uk



Take care through nature reserves



People visiting two beautiful nature reserves near Weston-super-Mare are being urged to watch out for grazing cattle.



Uphill Hill is managed by North Somerset Council and Walborough Common is managed by Avon Wildlife Trust. Both organisations work closely with Natural England to ensure the sites are preserved and managed correctly and sensitively.

The nature reserves are designated Sites of Scientific Interest for their grassland and Uphill Hill is also a Green Flag site – the mark of excellence for well-managed, open spaces.

The footpath through the nature reserves was upgraded last year to a permissive cycle route and it is proving popular with many more people enjoying these sites.

It is now part of route 33 of the National Cycle Network and leads to other traffic-free paths heading towards Brean forming the Brean Down Way.



If you are planning to visit, follow these top tips:

- **The reserves are openly grazed, usually from April to November**

Cows have free rein so approach with care. If you're walking a dog, keep it on a lead or under close control when entering the grazed sections and be aware of where the cattle are if your dog is off the lead.

- **Gates**

A number of gates are on the path to ensure both the cows' safety and yours. Kissing gates are at either end of the reserves, with RADAR lock access if required, while others are self-closing swing gates. Ensure all gates are closed/locked after passing through.

- **Stick to the path**

The site is open access for walking but there is no vehicle access to the hill without prior permission, including cyclists. This is to protect the grassland and limit the disturbance caused by tyres.

- **Cyclists approach slowly**

Cyclists are the fastest users of this route so please approach slowly.

Lots of people use this route including young families, dog walkers and cyclists. Take care when using the site and be aware of others. Cyclists should approach slowly.

Improvements are also being planned to connect Uphill to Weston-super-Mare along quiet roads and a new shared-use path alongside Uphill Road North. See page 31.

This will also form part of Route 33.

www.betterbybike.info/breandownway

Charging ahead with electric vehicles



Image: copyright Go Ultra Low (www.travelwest.info)

Electric vehicles are entering the mainstream with more and more manufacturers bringing out their own versions.

There are now more than 100,000 plug-in vehicles on the road in the UK compared with just 3,500 in 2013, thanks to an improving recharging network, a shift in the public's attitude and more cars to choose from.

Anyone in North Somerset who has considered making the shift can soon try an electric vehicle for free for two weeks (all you pay for is the electricity) thanks to the Go Ultra Low West project.

This is a limited offer but residents can register their interest now for the project which launches this spring.

North Somerset Council has already converted 40 per cent of its fleet to electric vehicles and it also offers 50/50 match-funded grants to businesses who want to install a charge point and help their staff switch to electric.

Charging points

Charging points are now located across the country and there are plans for an electric and hybrid vehicle charging hub in North Somerset this year.

This means you can refuel with electric in a similar way as conventional petrol or diesel.

Charging hubs will also be installed in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset areas.

Visit www.zap-map.com to find your nearest charging point.



Go Ultra Low
West



Go Ultra Low is a joint government and industry campaign to help motorists and fleets understand the benefits, cost savings and capabilities of electric vehicles on the market.

To sign-up for the free trial visit www.ecarclub.co.uk/ev-demo

For information about electric vehicles, funding, local dealerships or more, email sustainable.travel@n-somerset.gov.uk

www.travelwest.info/drive

Connecting coastal communities

Providing high quality walking and cycling routes is a priority for North Somerset Council, along with its commitment to maintaining and improving the area's roads.

Work is being done to progress plans for the North Somerset Coastal Towns cycle route – 38km of shared-use paths and quiet roads from Portishead to Weston-super-Mare and into neighbouring Somerset.

The route aims to link up the area's coastal towns and villages, including Portishead, Clevedon, Kingston Seymour, Wick St Lawrence, Kewstoke, Weston, Uphill and into Brea.

It will provide an alternative route for both daily commuters and leisure cyclists, as well as opening up these areas and improving accessibility for local residents.

Frankie Mann, sustainable travel and road safety manager at the council, said: "Providing a safe, accessible route between these towns and villages will give a real alternative for people travelling to work or visiting local amenities.

"As well as encouraging more sustainable travel through cycling or walking, it gives people the opportunity to lead a healthier lifestyle and could help ease congestion on the main routes by removing some of the traffic."

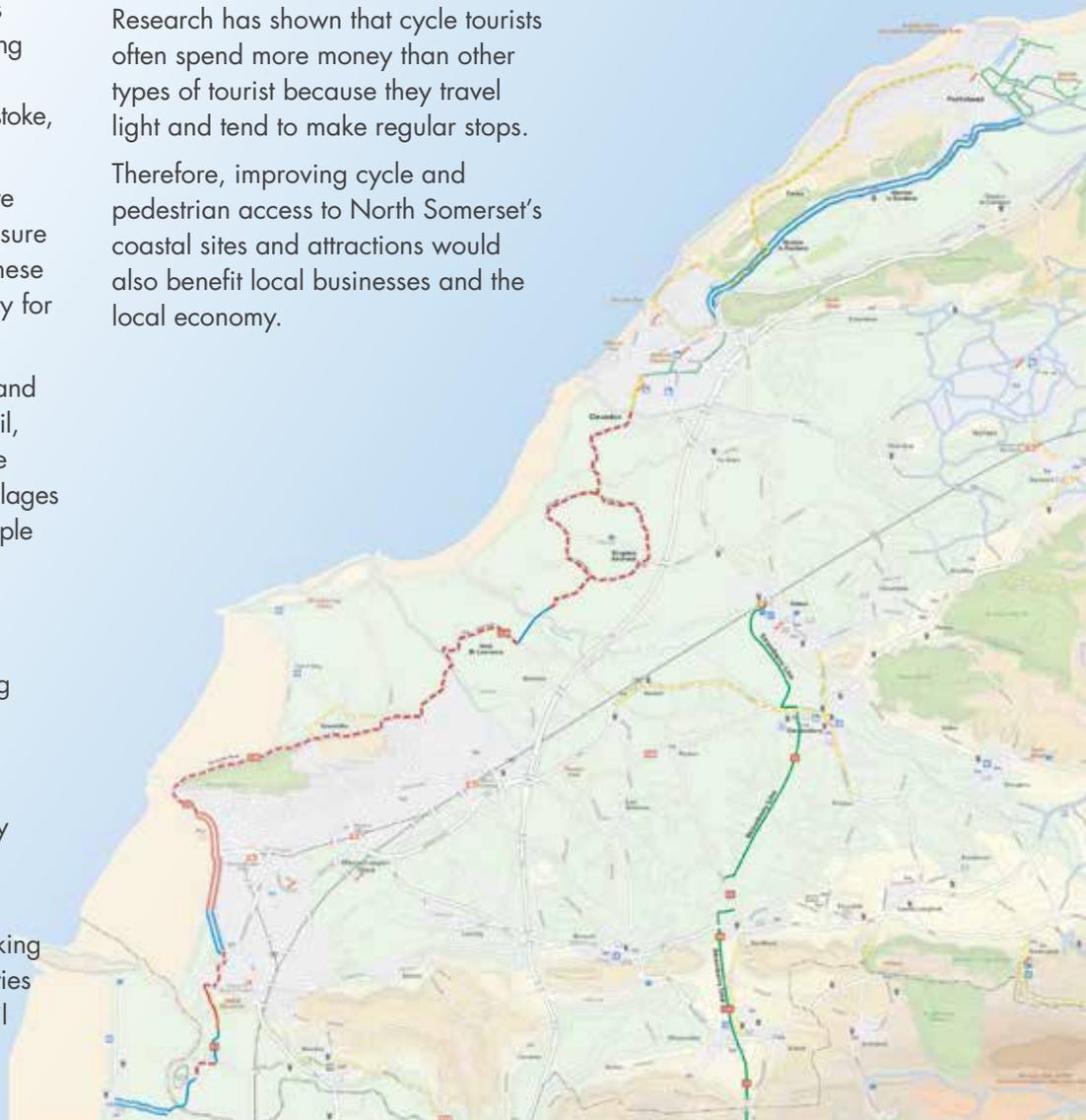
Projects of this size can be very complex because as well as working with partner organisations, charities and local landowners, the council needs to find and secure sources of funding.

Frankie added: "The North Somerset Coastal Towns cycle route is certainly a priority for us and we'll continue our work to implement it in full.

"Once completed it could become a tourist attraction in its own right."

Research has shown that cycle tourists often spend more money than other types of tourist because they travel light and tend to make regular stops.

Therefore, improving cycle and pedestrian access to North Somerset's coastal sites and attractions would also benefit local businesses and the local economy.



Progress so far

Walkers and cyclists are enjoying a new five mile section of the North Somerset Coastal Towns route.

Brean Down Way is a largely traffic-free route between Uphill and Brean which officially opened last July.



The bird screen on the Brean Down Way

The council worked in partnership with the charity Greenways and Cycleroutes, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water, Natural England, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and their contractors, Brean Parish Council, the National Trust and landowners to open this part of the route.

Funding for North Somerset's section came from the Local Growth Fund and Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

The route provides easy access between the two resorts of Weston and Brean and means pedestrians and cyclists can bypass the long, busy and often hazardous road.

The shared-use path is proving incredibly popular and the figures recorded by cycle and pedestrian counters along the path have exceeded all expectations.

Last August the average daily use was 310 cycle and 209 pedestrian one-way journeys.

Even in October, away from the main tourism season, there was a combined average of 204 journeys a day.

Colin added: "Now the route is established, we're looking forward to a busy 2018 - especially now the days are getting longer and weather improving."

Next steps

Portishead to Clevedon

The Gordano Greenway is in an early stage of development.

This route would provide an almost entirely new off-road, shared-use path from Portishead to Clevedon, parallel to the B3124, linking the villages Weston-in-Gordano and Walton-in-Gordano.

Surveys will be carried out on site soon to identify and map the trees, hedges, drainage network and other features on or around the proposed route.

Clevedon to Weston

A shared-use path from Clevedon to Weston is proposed to go through Kingston Seymour, cross the River Yeo into Wick St Lawrence, and then through Kewstoke along the Toll Road to Weston seafront.

Crossing the river makes this particularly complex.

Officers from North Somerset Council have made progress and are exploring possible, affordable solutions for crossing the river.

They are working with partners and landowners, as well as examining costs and investigating possible sources of funding.

Uphill Road North

Officers are looking at extending the Brean Down Way northwards into Weston along Uphill Road North. See page 28.

The plan is for a new shared-use path for cyclists and pedestrians by widening the existing pavement along this busy road.

Brean Down Way

Greenways and Cycleroutes are drawing up plans to extend Brean Down Way further south into Somerset by establishing links to Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea and Brent Knoll.



Time to **spring clean** and de-clutter

Shake off the winter blues with a bit of elbow grease – spring cleaning time is here.



For many people, spring is the perfect time to clear out your house and de-clutter.

But when you do, it's important to make sure all reusable items find a new home, everything that can be recycled is, and only a minimum amount of waste is thrown away.

If you're loading up the car to visit a recycling centre, here are some top tips....

- pre-sort items to make it easy to put them in the right place at the recycling centre
- flatten cardboard and ensure any boxes are empty of polystyrene and plastic packaging
- place all paper into a paper bag

- keep old wood from the garden in a single area of the car so it's easy to remove
- make sure that black bags filled with rubbish only contain things that cannot be recycled. Site staff can answer questions about what can be recycled
- tie all shoelaces together so that the shoes are not separated – it is important for reuse that they are in pairs
- clothing of good quality can be taken to your nearest charity shop. Clothing that cannot be worn again can be shredded and reused as stuffing in furniture and other soft items.

A trial will begin in April at Portishead recycling centre where reusable items brought into the site will be passed onto local charity Changing Lives.

Items will then be given to someone who needs them or sold in one of the charity's shops.

Proceeds go to help those in need find housing, jobs and a better quality of life.

Any large items which will not fit into your car can be collected by Changing Lives, through the council's bulky waste service.

Any good quality items that the charity can reuse will be collected for free but there will be a charge for large, bulky household items that are not reusable.

To request a collection call **01934 888 802**

Help reduce food waste

Hangers are being placed on black bins around North Somerset to remind residents not to throw away food waste.

The hanger will give residents information about how to make recycling food even easier and what they can put in their brown caddy.

North Somerset residents already do a great job recycling but, on average, about 46 per cent of what's in black bins could be recycled.

Of this, about 24 per cent is food waste.

Reducing the amount of black bin waste by one kilogram per week could save the council £10,500 per week.

This money could then be spent on other important council services, such as providing care for vulnerable adults and children.



Bumper festive period

Residents in North Somerset recycled more than ever before over the festive period.

During Christmas week the council collected 579 tonnes of recycling at the kerbside – a 64 per cent increase on what is normally collected each day.

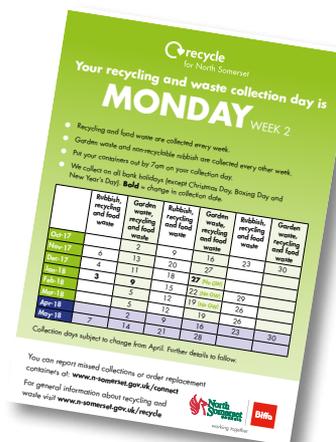
Although this delayed some of crews in carrying out collections on time, it is fantastic that so much was recycled.

The council would like to thank residents for all their efforts and hopes this upward trend continues.

Collection day changes this summer

Some waste and recycling collection routes are changing this summer to make them more efficient.

More information will be sent to residents and advertised on the council's website and social media nearer the time.



Box nets available

Box nets are now available to buy for £2 from all North Somerset libraries, the Town Hall in Weston-super-Mare and Castlewood office in Clevedon.

The nets are a great way to keep your recycling in the box and reduce windblown litter.

Nets can also ordered online direct from the supplier for £2.99 per net. Visit www.binsdirect.com/recycling-at-home/kerbside-recycling





Supporting survivors of domestic abuse

Thousands of families in North Somerset are affected by domestic abuse and great local support is available for survivors needing it.

Domestic abuse means abusive or controlling behaviour. There is support for anyone trying to leave and North Somerset Council is now exploring what happens to people once they have escaped an abusive relationship.

Many survivors who had been deliberately cut off from family and friends while living with an abuser still feel a sense of isolation after leaving. Drop-in sessions and courses run by Gemini Services and Alliance Homes provide a way for survivors to meet others and share mutual support and so help reduce this isolation.

Many of the women who attend these sessions have made life-long friends there.

One local resident Kate said: "I went to the beach with friends from my course. We sat watching our children run on the beach and were nearly in tears because it was such a massive feeling.

"We'd all been in it together and we had each other."

Many survivors feel that relatives do not understand how hard it is to recover from an abusive relationship, especially if there are children or self-confidence has been affected.

Susie said: "My family told me to leave my husband when they realised how controlling he was but they expected me to pick up my old life quickly.

"They said 'lots of people get divorced, it's no big deal nowadays'.





"They didn't understand how frightened I was or how upset my little boy was by what he'd seen."

Another resident, Annie, said: "Neighbours phoned the police when my ex-boyfriend assaulted me and I was really grateful but they never spoke to me again and it felt really awkward."

After Annie left her abusive boyfriend she found it hard to ask her family for support because she didn't want to upset them.

Now she wants to help others in a similar situation and said: "It's like being at the top of a ladder and I'm helping those further back to climb up after me."

"I used to give advice but never listen to it. Now when I hear myself telling others that it's not their fault, I realise that's true for me too."

Louise Branch, domestic abuse co-ordinator at North Somerset Council, said: "We were fortunate enough to receive government funding to set up the support groups and they have been very successful. We are now exploring ways to continue them."

"We also want to look at ways to support men who have lived with domestic abuse as, at the moment, we don't have enough coming forward to run groups for them although we do offer individual support."

A domestic abuse guidebook giving information and advice is available. For a copy, or to find out more about support available, visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/domesticabuse, email community@n-somerset.gov.uk or call **01934 426 343**

For support with domestic abuse call the DAFFS (Domestic Abuse FreeFone Support) confidential line: **0800 694 9999**





Public Health
England

WALKING

BRISKLY FOR 10 MINUTES COUNTS AS EXERCISE

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ACTIVE
10

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY
ONE YOU

Help build a rich heritage online



Historical online maps of North Somerset are providing a glimpse into the past and now people are being invited to add their own information to the site.

North Somerset is part of Know Your Place, a free online tool which allows users to explore their local area's rich heritage through old maps, archive images and linked information.

The website offers a side-by-side comparison tool so people can compare old maps with new and discover how North Somerset has transformed over time.

Visitors can also upload and share their own knowledge about an area in the community layer so free workshops will take place at libraries across the area during March and May to explain how to do this.

The workshops in May will tie in with Local and Community History Month, which aims to increase awareness of local history, promote history in general to the community and encourage people to participate.



Workshops take place at these libraries:

Wednesday 14 March
10.30am-noon, Clevedon

Wednesday 16 May
10.30am-noon, Yatton

Wednesday 16 May
1.30-3pm, Long Ashton

Tuesday 22 May
10.30am-noon, Pill

Wednesday 23 May
1.30-3pm, Portishead

Training is free but places will need to be booked.

Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for the library name.

Access the map at www.kypwest.org.uk • For more information email dm.archaeology@n-somerset.gov.uk

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Data protection law is changing



Organisations across the country are preparing for the biggest change to data protection laws since the Data Protection Act was introduced 20 years ago.



The European General Data Protection Regulation (or GDPR) comes into effect on Friday 25 May and significantly enhances the existing obligations organisations have to protect your personal information.

Tough fines face those which fail to comply.

Locally, it means residents can have a greater say on how North Somerset Council processes personal information, including having the right to:

- know why the council holds your personal information
- be informed about how it uses it before you give any personal information
- receive copies of all personal information the council holds about you

- have personal data rectified if it is factually inaccurate or incomplete, and to restrict the data processing until it is corrected
- be forgotten - you may request the council deletes all personal information about you from its systems and records
- object to certain types of data processing, such as direct marketing.

These rights apply to all organisations and businesses across Europe, not just the council.

North Somerset residents can also request these rights from the council now, and not wait until 25 May.

Once the UK leaves the European Union, these rights will continue to be covered by the UK Data Protection Bill.

Receiving further information

New GDPR rules are coming in about how organisations obtain consent to send you further information about its business or that of its partners.

From Friday 25 May:

- consent must be explicit and provided on an opt-in basis
- if challenged, organisations must produce proof that consent was freely and explicitly given.



Being forgotten

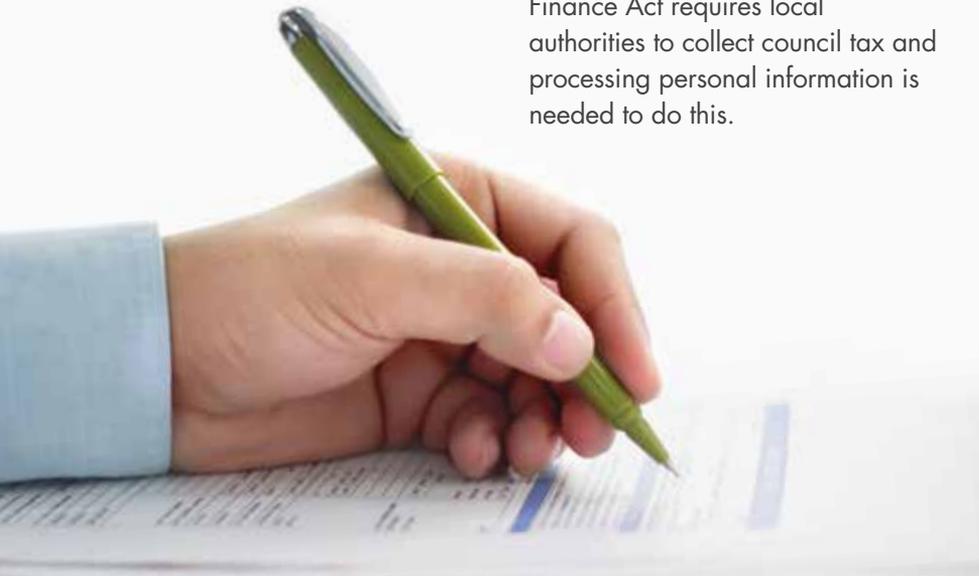
GDPR gives people the right, at any time and without notice, to withdraw any consent they may have previously given an organisation to process their personal information.

However, it is not always necessary for the council to have your consent.

It can do this where it needs to...

- process the information because of a contract the council holds with you
- comply with a legal obligation
- protect your vital interests
- carry out statutory duties.

For example, the Local Government Finance Act requires local authorities to collect council tax and processing personal information is needed to do this.



Sharing data to combat fraud

Fraud costs the public sector an estimated £20.6bn a year so it's in everyone's interests to prevent it.

Public authorities have a particular responsibility to ensure taxpayers' money is not taken fraudulently.

Computerised data matching allows potentially fraudulent claims and payments to be identified.

This is carried out by the Cabinet Office, by comparing computer records of one body to see how far they match another.

The Cabinet Office requires the council to participate in a data matching exercise. It is carried out under the Local Audit and Accountability Act and does not require the consent of the individuals concerned.



For more details visit www.ico.org.uk

How we use your personal data

North Somerset Council is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office to process personal data for legitimate business use.

The council will:

- continue to strengthen its procedures to maintain confidentiality
- require all employees to comply fully
- hold the minimum personal information necessary to perform its functions, and erase it once the need has gone
- make every effort to ensure information is accurate, up-to-date and any inaccuracies are corrected without unnecessary delay
- obtain and process all personal data in accordance with the fair processing code
- design its systems and processes to comply with data protection principles
- not publish personal data on its website without explicit consent from the subject
- take immediate action if policies are not complied with.

Any personal information will only be disclosed for notified purposes to:

- **staff** – where information is vital to their work
- **courts** – under a court order
- **partners** – strictly in accordance with agreed protocols
- **others** – as detailed in the notified register entry.

With residents' consent, email addresses will be gathered from the information they submit when interacting with the council, to provide information and news.

An external supplier sends these emails but the council remains responsible for the data security. There is always an opportunity to unsubscribe or re-subscribe in future.

Information collected is used to:

- improve the council's website
- customise the website's content and layout
- notify users (with their consent) about updates to the website
- contact users (with their consent) for marketing purposes.

Under the Digital Economy Act, personal data may be shared with other public authorities for fraud or crime detection or prevention, to recover monies owed, to improve public service delivery, or for statistical research. This information is not shared with other organisations for commercial purposes.

Free help finding tenants



Many people across North Somerset are searching for private rented accommodation so any landlords with property lying empty can get free help to find tenants.



North Somerset Council's lettings team is on the lookout for a wide range of property types – from studio flats to family homes.

The team can offer landlords a range of incentives and a free professional service to help find suitable tenants quickly.

Free extra incentives include...

- tenancy agreements
- inventories
- help with sign-up and exit at end of tenancies
- property checks/inspections
- bonds to cover damages or rent arrears
- deposit and rent in advance
- advice on tenancy issues and good lettings practice
- a dedicated housing benefit officer to fast track any claims
- dedicated support for both landlord and tenant if required

- a named lettings officer, available to both the landlord and tenant for the length of the tenancy
- 'fast track' access to discretionary housing payments
- access to The Ark Passport, a new and innovative tenant referencing and landlord insurance scheme.

Local landlord Samantha Jackson said: "As both a landlord, and director of the National Landlords Code of Excellence, I have had many years dealing with the housing team at North Somerset Council.

"Recently they have filled two vacancies for me, with great tenants, all paperwork done for me and full payment from day one."

How it works

Landlords can contact the lettings team to let them know they have a property available.

Officers will then visit the property to check the condition and suitability and to discuss the standards the council requires, such as safety certificates.

Landlords retain the right to end the tenancy in the usual manner at the end of the period, or renew it if they are happy with the tenants.

The team can also put landlords in touch with a private sector leasing scheme run by social housing provider Mears. It manages properties on behalf of landlords free of charge and offers guaranteed rent for 52 weeks a year.

If you, or someone you know, is a landlord and wants to find out more, contact the lettings team on **01934 426 483** or lettingsteam@n-somerset.gov.uk

Find out about new incentives at a landlords breakfast event, from 9-11 am on Tuesday 20 March at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare

Cemetery space in Weston to get five-acre extension



Generations of families in North Somerset will have space to remember a loved one thanks to a five-acre extension of Weston-super-Mare's cemetery.

Across the UK, cemeteries are close to capacity or no longer have space for more burials but the extension to the Ebdon Road site will provide enough space for graves for the next 50 years.

The cemetery and crematorium is run by Dignity, after it took over the site from North Somerset Council in 2010.

Since then it has spent more than £2m refurbishing and extending the chapel and public areas.

The next step is to provide the five-acre extension and work will start this spring.

Steve Gant, crematoria director at Dignity, said: "We will be creating a place of beauty and tranquillity where bereaved families can remember their loved ones.

"Extending this important place of remembrance will provide residents with a single-site cemetery, making good use of existing facilities and providing burial space for existing and future generations for decades to come."

Mandy Bishop, assistant director of operations at North Somerset Council, said: "Authorities up and down the country face the prospect of cemeteries running out of burial space, but we need to plan now for the expected rise in death rate in the 2020s and 2030s."

The new burial space will also have an area where ashes can be interred.

The development will also provide more than 70 new car park spaces, to help alleviate issues with on-site parking for all visitors.



Work is expected to be finished by the autumn.

Weston-super-Mare Crematorium:
01934 510 608
www.dignityfunerals.co.uk

Don't be driven to despair by used cars

Used car salesmen can be a comedy cliché but it's not funny if your vehicle breaks down soon after purchase.



About eight million used cars were bought in the UK last year but many consumers are not fully aware of their legal rights.

Problems with used cars are the single most common reason people contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service, with more than 50,000 complaints each year.

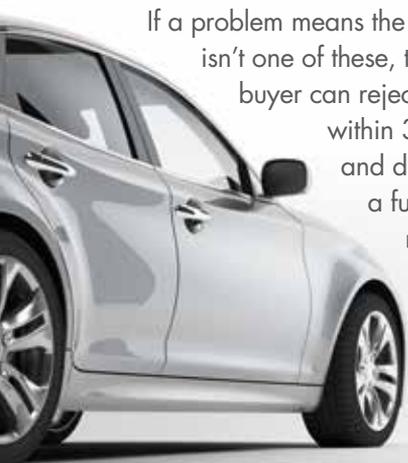
Here are some tips to avoid becoming a victim...

From a trader

Buying from a trader gives maximum legal protection with least risk.

In addition to any warranty, the car is covered by the Consumer Rights Act which means products must be of satisfactory quality, fit for purpose and as described.

If a problem means the car isn't one of these, the buyer can reject it within 30 days and demand a full refund.



If a defect is found after 30 days but within six months, the buyer is entitled to a repair or replacement initially.

At this stage, it's assumed the fault was there at the time of purchase unless the seller can prove otherwise.

After six months, the buyer must prove the car was faulty at the time of sale and wear and tear or a minor fault may not be considered.

Traders also have to comply with consumer protection regulations to stop unfair business practices.

Privately

Buyer beware - it's up to the buyer to ask questions and inspect the car.

Sellers must have the legal right to sell the vehicle, it should match the description and be roadworthy.

Online

Buying from a dealer online gives the same protection as if visiting in person.

The Consumer Rights Act also means a buyer can cancel within 14 days and get a full refund. This includes 'buy it now' from a dealer on an auction site.

Accurate details must be given, including delivery and supplier information, and full price including delivery. Written information about cancellations should also be provided.

If buying online from a private seller, the same rights apply as if face-to-face.

Live auctions



Buyers have very little legal protection at a live auction so always check specific terms and conditions before bidding.

Auctioneers aren't usually liable if the seller didn't have the right to sell the car.

Some auctions offer 'guarantees' or 'insurance' but check wording carefully.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk •
www.gov.uk/checks-when-buying-a-used-car

Help tackle social isolation in your community

A pioneering new way of tackling loneliness, social isolation and inactivity is expanding in North Somerset – and volunteers are needed to help it grow.

Not-for-profit organisation Growing Support runs gardening clubs for people living in care to help them connect with the outdoors.

The clubs use fun, engaging activities specially designed to increase opportunities for light exercise, sensory stimulation and social interaction.

It is now looking for more volunteers to support trained horticultural therapists in running the clubs in care homes in North Somerset.

There is strong evidence that gardening as part of a group can help people feel a renewed sense of purpose, reduce agitation and improve sleep and appetite.

One North Somerset volunteer, Karen, has a background in learning disability social care and arts and wanted to combine her therapeutic skills with horticulture after falling in love with gardening.

Karen said: "I found that often the sight of the plants or the sensory nature of the activity would spark memories to surface and reminiscences about the gardens the residents had at home.

"Even participants who had quite advanced dementia and limited verbal communication were clearly getting something from the sessions.

"I saw one woman who went from being quite distressed at the start of a session to leaving us with a big smile on her face and a calm and relaxed demeanour.

"It's a really wonderful feeling to make a connection with somebody who may be hard to reach in other ways."

All volunteers receive an induction, support from a mentor and access to further training.

There are regular volunteer meetings and Growing Support covers travel expenses. You do not need to be a gardening expert.



Volunteer Karen

growing support
because gardens are good for you



For information about the project and how to get involved contact Sarah on **07419 825 261**, volunteers@growingsupport.co.uk or visit www.growingsupport.co.uk/get-involved

Watch out for warning signs of child sexual exploitation

Sexual exploitation affects thousands of children and young people every year in the UK.

Many of those being abused don't see themselves as victims or ask for help. Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day takes place on Sunday 18 March and parents and carers are being urged to watch out for warning signs.

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child abuse where offenders groom young people and use control to sexually abuse them.

It can be part of a seemingly consensual relationship where someone pretends to be a young person's friend, boyfriend or girlfriend and manipulates them with bribes, threats or violence.

Victims are forced to have sex, or do sexual things with the offenders or other people.

It can happen to any child or young person under the age of 18, from any background, to boys and young men as well as girls and young women.

Perpetrators might be an adult, another young person under the age of 18, a man or woman, of any background.



Spot the signs

For parents or carers it's important to talk to children about the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships, to help highlight potential risks.

There is no stereotypical victim but warning signs may indicate something is wrong.

Tell-tale signs might include...

- becoming especially secretive, not seeing their usual friends, having sharp, severe mood swings
- developing relationships with older men and/or women (although not all perpetrators are older)

- receiving calls and messages from outside their normal circle of friends
- going missing from home and being reluctant to say where they've been or what they've been doing, or staying out all night
- new, expensive items they couldn't afford, as well as invisible or virtual gifts such as phone credit or online gaming credits
- suddenly changing their taste in dress or music
- looking tired or unwell and sleeping at unusual hours
- marks or scars on their body which they try to hide
- regularly missing school
- displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour.

If you suspect a child or young person may be at risk, or have any information relating to child sexual exploitation, don't wait to act on your concerns. Call 101 or visit a local police station.

If you know or suspect a child or young person is in immediate danger, call 999. Reports can also be made online at

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk

www.thisisnotanexcuse.org/child-sexual-exploitation

Get vocal, be heard



Revellers enjoying the Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show

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:

I see the regeneration happening in Weston-super-Mare's town centre and read with interest the plans to make it a lively university town – but what are you doing to attract more tourists? We are a seaside town, after all.

We did:

Tourist attractions and organisations across North Somerset and the wider West of England are working together to attract more visitors.

At the end of January, the fifth annual North Somerset Tourism and Leisure Conference took place with representatives from 32 tourism and leisure-related businesses.

The key message from the event was that working in partnership and attracting more overseas visitors is key to the success of the area as a tourist destination.

North Somerset Council has recently refreshed its economic plan and one theme is to make the area an accessible and exciting cultural destination.

During the next two years, North Somerset will also benefit from the Arts Council and Visit England-funded Bristol and Bath Cultural Destinations Project.

This will bring together the West of England's cultural and tourism sectors to promote the region's diverse cultural offer and encourage more national and international visitors, initially focusing on Germany and Scandinavia.

In Weston-super-Mare specifically, the Tropicana has established itself as a multi-use events and entertainment venue with lots of events lined up for 2018.

Last month, the Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show presented a sell-out gig, there will be a Roots to Ragga music event in March and a Shuffle Brothers DJ set in April.

Theatre shows will also continue throughout the year, there will be a Big Bang science and engineering festival in April, Funland returns in May, the Great British Gin Festival takes place in July and the Stars of Time comicon returns in August.

Other major events for the town include Weston Air Festival in June and other activities and events on the seafront and Italian Gardens.

Find out more at www.tropicana-weston.co.uk or www.discovernorthsomerset.co.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 live in Bristol but picked up a copy of your publication and feel I must write to say how much it impressed me.

It is positive, forward looking and proactive. Above all, it is crammed with ideas for how people can get involved, either with self-help groups or organisations dedicated to helping others.

I found it inspiring and uplifting and just wish we had something similar in Bristol.

Victoria Newhouse, Bristol

Dear Editor,

Further to the article on winter cycling (Winter Focus '17), no mention is made to cycling on pavements.

If pedestrians are startled by a bike coming up behind them and turn suddenly, older people on slippery pavements are very liable to fall. Who is responsible for warning/prosecuting cyclists in the wrong place?

Likewise, if parents allow their children to cycle on pavements, surely they should ensure they know what is meant by a blind corner and care needed here.

J Webb, Weston-super-Mare

Editor's reply:

No-one is permitted to cycle on the pavement, not even children (rule 64 of the Highway Code).

In addition, rule 62 of the Highway Code states cyclists should take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, older or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room. Cyclists should always be prepared to slow down and stop if necessary.

The police are the only ones who can enforce cycling on the pavement.

To help teach cycling road safety to children, North Somerset Council provides on-road Bikeability training to all primary schools in North Somerset.

For more information, search for 'cyclists' (rules 59-82) at www.gov.uk/the-highway-code

North Somerset Life is on Instagram. Tag [#northsomersetlife](https://www.instagram.com/northsomersetlife) to share your photos



@RUBIX01



@SOHOPRGIRL



@LAURASAURADESIGNS



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

Today I visited the tip with a small amount of plasterboard. I am not a builder or plasterer so was not aware this was something that would now be charged for – why?

North Somerset Council: Plasterboard is not classified as household waste because it is not something a householder would normally produce. This means we

can make a charge. It is recycled but this still has a significant cost associated with it.

25 per cent of what I put in the recycling box gets left in there. Plastic recycling varies across the country. There needs to be some consistency and improvement in what can be recycled. Suppliers also need to do better.

North Somerset Council:

Most plastic packaging is recyclable in our boxes. We don't recycle black plastic as the auto sorting laser doesn't bounce off it, so doesn't know what type it is to sort. We don't recycle hard plastic like Tupperware at kerbside but you can take it to a recycling centre.

North Somerset Life is the award winning 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:

- Deaf Awareness Week
- Young people's democracy project

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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01934 888 888

Emergency (out of hours):
01934 622 669

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

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/tidetimes

MARCH 2018

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)
	AM				PM			
1 Thu	06:11	12.10	-	-	18:40	12.34	12:15	0.54
2 Fri	06:58	12.61	00:36	0.33	19:23	12.70	13:00	0.20
3 Sat	07:40	12.87	01:18	0.10	20:04	12.82	13:41	0.11
4 Sun	08:20	12.89	01:58	0.11	20:43	12.68	14:20	0.25
5 Mon	08:59	12.61	02:36	0.33	21:20	12.23	14:55	0.58
6 Tue	09:37	12.02	03:10	0.71	21:55	11.50	15:26	1.03
7 Wed	10:11	11.18	03:39	1.20	22:29	10.61	15:54	1.52
8 Thu	10:43	10.28	04:07	1.69	23:01	9.73	16:23	1.99
9 Fri	11:19	9.42	04:42	2.18	23:42	8.94	17:00	2.47
10 Sat	05:26	2.71	-	-	12:10	8.65	17:52	3.01
11 Sun	00:51	8.32	06:32	3.25	13:32	8.19	19:12	3.49
12 Mon	02:27	8.31	08:48	3.32	15:07	8.47	21:21	3.13
13 Tue	03:50	9.02	09:49	2.58	16:22	9.32	22:12	2.37
14 Wed	04:47	9.97	10:35	1.90	17:11	10.20	22:57	1.76
15 Thu	05:31	10.76	11:18	1.42	17:52	10.88	23:37	1.35
16 Fri	06:09	11.31	11:58	1.12	18:28	11.36	-	-
17 Sat	06:45	11.69	00:17	1.09	19:02	11.74	12:38	0.92
18 Sun	07:20	12.00	00:56	0.90	19:37	12.05	13:16	0.76
19 Mon	07:55	12.23	01:33	0.77	20:12	12.23	13:54	0.68
20 Tue	08:32	12.27	02:11	0.75	20:48	12.15	14:32	0.75
21 Wed	09:09	12.01	02:47	0.91	21:24	11.76	15:06	1.01
22 Thu	09:47	11.48	03:18	1.20	22:02	11.15	15:36	1.35
23 Fri	10:28	10.76	03:49	1.54	22:44	10.44	16:13	1.72
24 Sat	11:17	10.01	04:34	1.91	23:40	9.74	17:05	2.14
25 Sun	-	-	06:37	2.35	13:27	9.40	19:19	2.60
26 Mon	02:02	9.31	08:12	2.73	14:55	9.27	21:09	2.74
27 Tue	03:32	9.51	09:56	2.46	16:24	9.81	22:31	2.21
28 Wed	04:58	10.30	11:11	1.81	17:38	10.76	23:42	1.49
29 Thu	06:04	11.27	-	-	18:34	11.65	12:12	1.08
30 Fri	06:56	12.00	00:34	0.80	19:21	12.22	12:59	0.55
31 Sat	07:40	12.41	01:17	0.39	20:02	12.51	13:39	0.32

APRIL 2018

Date	High water		Low water		High water		Low water	
	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)	Time	Height (M)
	AM				PM			
1 Sun	08:19	12.60	01:56	0.26	20:40	12.61	14:17	0.32
2 Mon	08:56	12.61	02:32	0.31	21:16	12.53	14:52	0.47
3 Tue	09:32	12.40	03:06	0.49	21:51	12.17	15:23	0.73
4 Wed	10:06	11.89	03:34	0.79	22:24	11.52	15:49	1.08
5 Thu	10:38	11.13	04:01	1.18	22:53	10.70	16:13	1.48
6 Fri	11:08	10.27	04:27	1.61	23:21	9.85	16:40	1.90
7 Sat	11:38	9.45	05:00	2.05	23:55	9.08	17:15	2.34
8 Sun	-	-	05:40	2.54	12:19	8.70	18:02	2.85
9 Mon	00:48	8.39	06:40	3.07	13:28	8.12	19:11	3.36
10 Tue	02:31	8.10	08:12	3.44	15:17	8.18	21:22	3.50
11 Wed	04:03	8.68	10:16	2.91	16:36	8.96	22:39	2.73
12 Thu	05:05	9.64	11:04	2.16	17:30	9.94	23:26	2.03
13 Fri	05:53	10.55	11:48	1.59	18:15	10.78	-	-
14 Sat	06:35	11.25	00:10	1.52	18:56	11.42	12:32	1.21
15 Sun	07:14	11.75	00:52	1.17	19:34	11.89	13:14	0.93
16 Mon	07:53	12.12	01:32	0.90	20:11	12.23	13:53	0.73
17 Tue	08:31	12.36	02:11	0.72	20:49	12.41	14:32	0.62
18 Wed	09:10	12.41	02:50	0.67	21:28	12.36	15:10	0.67
19 Thu	09:50	12.18	03:27	0.79	22:07	12.00	15:47	0.91
20 Fri	10:32	11.65	04:03	1.07	22:49	11.38	16:21	1.26
21 Sat	11:18	10.91	04:40	1.42	23:37	10.64	17:01	1.65
22 Sun	-	-	05:27	1.81	12:14	10.15	17:57	2.08
23 Mon	00:36	9.96	06:33	2.24	13:21	9.58	19:15	2.49
24 Tue	01:53	9.59	08:07	2.51	14:41	9.48	20:55	2.55
25 Wed	03:17	9.75	09:39	2.25	16:07	9.94	22:12	2.09
26 Thu	04:39	10.41	10:50	1.73	17:17	10.75	23:19	1.51
27 Fri	05:43	11.18	11:51	1.19	18:12	11.46	-	-
28 Sat	06:34	11.72	00:12	1.00	18:59	11.89	12:37	0.84
29 Sun	07:17	11.98	00:54	0.74	19:38	12.09	13:15	0.73
30 Mon	07:55	12.08	01:31	0.69	20:14	12.17	13:50	0.78

Advertising and sponsorship **opportunities**

A man in a brown suit is captured mid-jump on a sandy beach. He is holding a large, bright red balloon above his head. The balloon is the central focus and contains the text "STAND OUT!". The background shows the ocean and a clear sky.

STAND OUT!

Image credit: Paul Blakemore

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