

Coker Division

Your December report from

Mike HEWITSON & Oliver PATRICK



South Somerset
District Council



SOMERSET
County Council



Working hard for you in Barwick & Stoford, Chiselborough, Closworth, East Chinnoek, East Coker, Hardington, Haselbury Plucknett, Montacute, North Perrott, Norton Sub Hamdon, Odcombe, West Coker, West & Middle Chinnoek



MIKE'S MESSAGE AT CHRISTMAS *"Christmas in South Somerset is very special - particularly in the snow we've enjoyed recently," says **Mike Hewitson**. "People flock here from far and wide to marvel at our hamstone buildings, walk our winding lanes, and enjoy our country pubs. Aren't we lucky? But there is also hardship within our communities.*

*Everyone should have received our Cost of Living leaflet by now, but if you haven't and you need support please get in touch. **Oliver and I, your local Councillors, are here for you all year round - even at Christmas time."***

CHRISTMAS POTHOLE COMPETITION

Since getting elected in May, Mike and Oliver have been on a mission to eradicate all the potholes in Coker. Now they've launched a competition to find the ones they've missed. If there's an impressive pothole near you then stick a ruler in it, take a picture, and send it to Oliver and Mike. The top 3 most impressive potholes will feature in the Jan/Feb Coker report. The entrants will receive ever-lasting bragging rights.



£1.6m FOR NEW VISITOR CENTRE AT HAM HILL South Somerset District Council has secured £1.6 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project, 'Uncovering Ham Hill's past for its future,' includes plans for a new visitor centre with permanent and temporary exhibition spaces designed to tell Ham Hill's story. A new café will provide refreshments and a space for socialising, whilst public toilets and a 'Changing Place' toilet will increase facilities for visitors - particularly those with additional requirements - making Ham Hill a welcoming place for everyone.

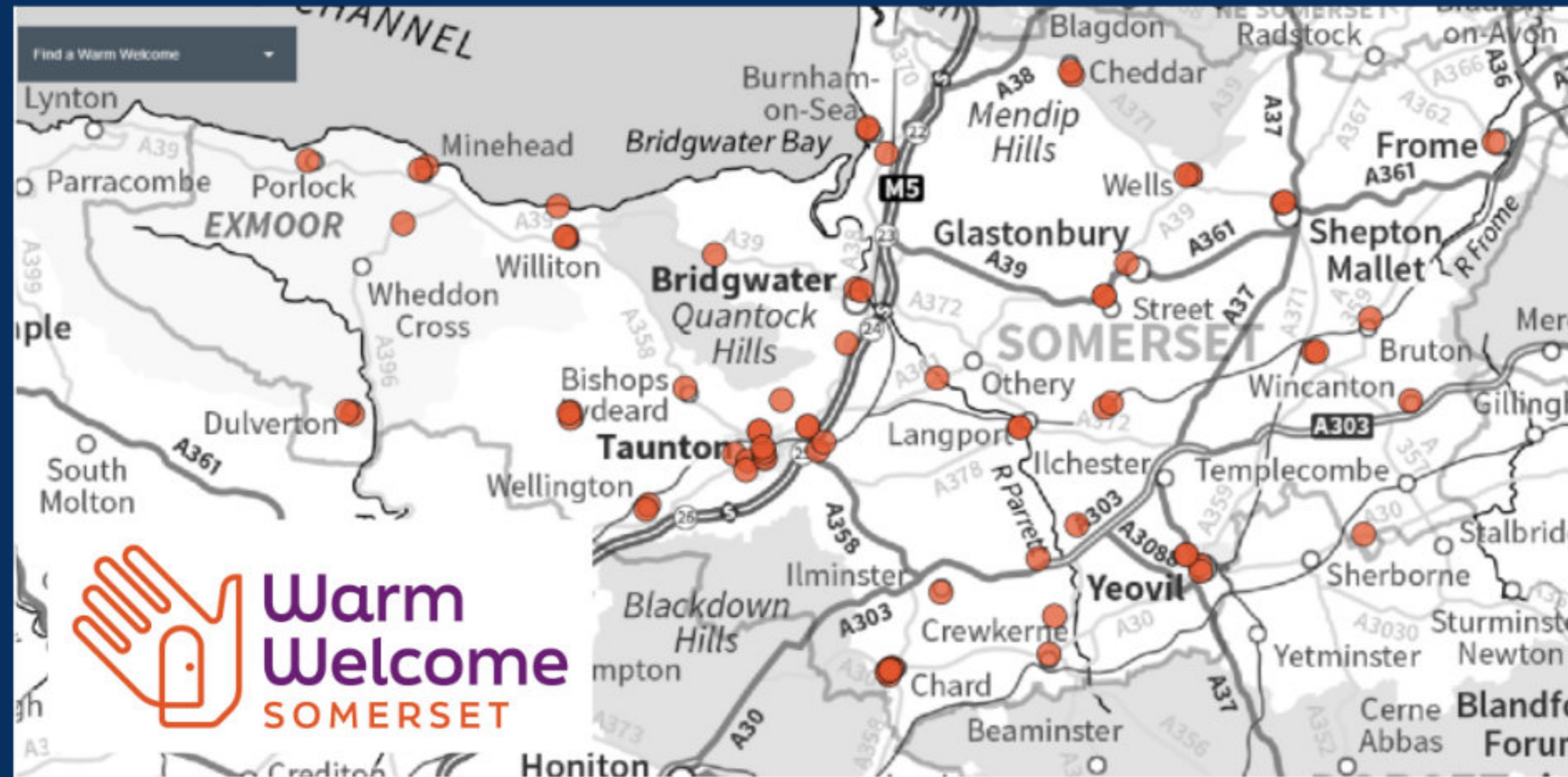
Cllr Mike Hewitson said, *"I'm delighted this project has been recognised by the National Lottery. Ham Hill brings so much joy to residents & visitors across South Somerset. This new visitor centre and site improvements will allow everyone to experience more of the Hill's history and natural wonders. My thanks go to the dedicated project team who have worked so hard, including officers and volunteers."*



Artist's impression of
Ham Hill's new visitor centre

FIND A WARM WELCOME THIS WINTER Spark Somerset's Warm hub map is now live. Approximately 70 hubs have opened up across Somerset, and more are being added every week. You can find your nearest warm hub here: www.sparksomerset.org.uk/find-warm-welcome

Whether it's free food, activities for the children, or support with finances or housing - every Warm Welcome venue has something different to offer. *"I'm delighted there are so many warm hubs in and around Coker Division,"* said



Oliver, *"but this must not be normalised. Warm hubs are a symptom of a big problem that the Government must address. I continue to be alarmed by the lack of support for those who are off-grid (9 in 10 properties in Coker Division) and rely on heating oil, LPG, or biomass."*

A RECORD OF DELIVERY: SSDC COMMUNITY GRANTS

Over the decades, South Somerset District Council has awarded many grants to support local projects. In recent years, these have helped fund new playground equipment in Norton Sub Hamdon and East Chinnoek, new cricket nets at North Perrott CC (pictured), and even 80 solar panels on the new West Coker Pavilion. Now that Somerset is going unitary, SSDC's Community Grants scheme has closed to new applications. **This December, one of the last ever**



Oliver cutting the ribbon on North Perrott's new cricket nets

SSDC grants was awarded right here in Coker - to West & Middle Chinnoek Parish Council, who received nearly £10,000 to deliver playground improvements on the village recreation ground. *"I'd like to thank the Parish Council for all their hard work on this,"* said **Cllr Oliver Patrick**. *"The community will really benefit from this investment. If the PC requires test dummies for the new equipment I have three children who will happily oblige!"*

NEW BRANDING FOR SOMERSET COUNCIL The new branding for many of Somerset's public services was confirmed at a meeting of Somerset County Council's Executive this month. The new brand will begin to appear on council services from April next year when the new unitary Council comes into existence. Council services will be badged by a white dragon's head placed in a teal pentagon, representing the five councils that will be replaced by the new council. **Cllr Bill Revans**, Leader of Somerset County Council, said, *"We obviously need to clearly identify the services of the new council – it's important that residents know where their council tax goes – but we have been at pains to develop and implement the new brand as economically as possible. This is a challenging time for council finances, and we have to make sure we are spending taxpayers' money as wisely as possible."*



**Somerset
Council**

Christmas waste collections 2022-2023



Usual day

Revised

Monday 26 December - Tuesday 27 December

Tuesday 27 December - Wednesday 28 December

Wednesday 28 December - Thursday 29 December

Thursday 29 December - Friday 30 December

Friday 30 December - Saturday 31 December

Monday 2 January - Tuesday 3 January

Tuesday 3 January - Wednesday 4 January

Wednesday 4 January - Thursday 5 January

Thursday 5 January - Friday 6 January

Friday 6 January - Saturday 7 January

More info: www.somersetwaste.org.uk/festive

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