

# Coker Division

Your Feb/March report from

**Cllr Mike HEWITSON & Cllr Oliver PATRICK**



**South Somerset**  
District Council



**SOMERSET**  
County Council



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

**A BALANCED BUDGET FOR SOMERSET** *“When we won the local elections in May 2022, we knew we had a huge challenge ahead of us,”* said **Cllr Oliver Patrick**. *“It was always going to be difficult to combine all 5 councils into 1 new Unitary Council, but it has been made especially difficult with demand for services, particularly in adult social care and children’s services, soaring along with high inflation, and ongoing Covid and Brexit workforce challenges.”*

Following the Full Council meeting on 22 February Somerset now has a **balanced budget** for 2023/24, the first year of the new Unitary Council. *“We have delivered a solid foundation for Somerset’s new Council”* said **Oliver**, *“Our balanced budget protects core services, shields those on the lowest incomes, and invests in Somerset.”*

*“We are a listening Council”* added **Cllr Mike Hewitson**, *“we listened to community concerns about our plans to change the way grit is delivered to villages and have committed to continue paying for this important service.”*



# ***RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT - HAVE YOUR SAY!***

Somerset Council is in the early stages of writing a new Local Transport Plan (LTP), which will set out the strategy for improving and maintaining the transport network across the County.

Associate Lead Member for Transport and Digital, **Cllr Mike Hewitson** said *“to understand what works in specific locations, it is vital to get input from rural communities like ours. People often feel isolated from services due to poor mobility links so the LTP will identify a package of transport solutions which will work together to improve access across the County.”*

Mike & Oliver are urging people to please have their say on the LTP on the link below:

**<https://somensetsustainabletransport.commonplace.is/>**

A poster for Somerset Sustainable Transport. The top section has a white background with the text 'Somerset Sustainable Transport' in black. Below this is a large blue section with the title 'Sustainable Transport in Somerset - Have your say!' in white. The text below the title reads: 'Somerset is a great place to live, work and visit but we want to make it easier for everyone to travel more sustainably. We aim to use this site so that everyone can have their say on how they'd like to travel in their community and influence transport policies. This site will be continually updated, and we'll post information on future proposals and sustainable transport schemes.' There is a small icon of a person in a circle next to the last sentence. The bottom of the poster features a green landscape with a tree, a family of three, and a person on a bicycle.

Somerset Sustainable Transport

## Sustainable Transport in Somerset - Have your say!

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We aim to use this site so that everyone can have their say on how they'd like to travel in their community and influence transport policies.

This site will be continually updated, and we'll post information on future proposals and sustainable transport schemes.

# **PLANNING A CORONATION STREET PARTY? APPLY FOR ROAD CLOSURE NOW!**

**Time is running out to apply for a road closure.**

“We want to make sure everyone who wishes to have a street party is able to do so safely,” said **Oliver**, adding “if you haven’t yet applied for a road closure, please apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.”



*King  
Charles'  
Coronation  
6th May*

If you’re organising a Street Party there are some simple rules you must follow for everyone’s safety. **Please note there is no charge for King’s Coronation Street Parties.** For more information and an application form, please click the link below:

**<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/organising-an-event-on-or-affecting-the-public-highway/>**



## **Organise a Street Party to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty The King.**

A ceremony to crown His Majesty King Charles III, alongside The Queen Consort will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. We want to help communities celebrate this occasion by providing guidance on how to hold a street party.

# **FREE CO<sub>2</sub> MONITORS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES** So far Oliver has

donated ten CO<sub>2</sub> monitors to a number of Early Years settings, cafes, pubs, village halls, and even a youth club in Coker Division. *“Keep your eyes peeled!”* says **Oliver** *“and you might spot one when you’re out and about!”*



In order to encourage good ventilation in classrooms, the Department for Education distributed CO<sub>2</sub> monitors to schools just before Christmas. Oliver thought that all public places could benefit from this, so he began using his clean air fund to buy CO<sub>2</sub> monitors to give away for free. **Oliver’s clean air campaign has now raised just over £5,500.**

*“It’s such a simple idea,”* says **Oliver**, *“when CO<sub>2</sub> goes high you open the windows to bring CO<sub>2</sub> levels down. Doing this can help stop the spread of airborne infections like Covid, flu, and common colds.”*

**If you own a local business & would like a free CO<sub>2</sub> monitor please get in touch with Oliver.**



# SEE IT - REPORT IT - MIKE & OLLIE WILL SORT IT!



Mike & Oliver are asking for your help in reporting flytipping as soon as you see it. *"We've been busy reporting a lot of it this past month,"* says **Mike**, adding *"flytipping is particularly offensive - especially as it's free to dispose of household waste at Yeovil Recycling Centre. There's really no excuse for treating our countryside like a bin."*



*"Please help us **keep Coker tidy** by reporting flytipping as soon as you see it,"* says **Oliver** *"After all, dumped rubbish quickly seems to make friends."*

Remember, you can report ANY issue (potholes, dog fouling, flytipping... and more) here: [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)



[mike.hewitson@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mike.hewitson@somerset.gov.uk)

[oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk)