

Full Council Meeting – 5 July 2022

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

Launch of Climate Change Newsletter

A regular Climate Change newsletter, bringing together actions by SWT and other climate change related events and developments, is currently on its second edition. Interested parties can subscribe via our website . [Climate change newsletter \(somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk\)](https://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/climate-change-newsletter) This has the advantage of bringing separate comms items together in one document for those who are interested, with back copies also available on the website. Current subscriptions are encouraging and we hope this will increase further.

Final Funding round for Electric Vehicle Charge Points for Parish and Town councils and community organisations

A final round of grant funding to support the installation of electric vehicle charge points (EVCPs) across the district has been launched. A number of parishes have already installed EVCPs following successful grant applications in the initial round of funding from SWT including Brushford, Luxborough, and Stoke St Gregory.

Applications from parish and town councils and community centres are welcome before the 30 September 2022. Grants up to £1,500 in match funding for EVCPs are available.

For more information please contact Franc Parreira on 01984 600205 or email f.parreira@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

E-Scooter trial

A report on the e-scooter trial went before Community Scrutiny on May 25. The report and presentation included information on usage to date, including day/nighttime usage, age of riders, journey flows and estimated carbon savings. It also provided updates on changes that have been implemented throughout the trial, as well as data from Avon and Somerset Police related to incidents and accidents.

The report also included a section on the future of escooters; and made reference to the Queen's speech which announced the government's intention to introduce legislation on the future of transport as part of a transport bill.

Aims of the Bill

- Create new regime for regulating micromobility

- Create a new, low-speed, zero-emission vehicle category
- Establish regulation ensuring safety for users, pedestrians, and other road users
- Give powers to local transport authorities to shape and manage rental operations, for pedal cycles, e-cycles, and escooters

Decision Making

- DfT will consult publicly before any regulation for escooters and the rental schemes are made
- There will be no final decisions until the transport bill becomes law

Trial Status

- Current regulation for rental escooter still apply
- Private escooters remain illegal to use on public roads
- Trials will continue to run until 30 November 2022
- No decision has been made about what will happen to trials after that date

Taunton Weekly Insights
13/06/2022 – 19/06/2022

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	1,114	1,211	98,836
Total distance travelled	1,727 miles	1,946 miles	191,696 miles
Average trip length	1.55 miles	1.61 miles	2.05 miles
Average trip duration	0:11:59	0:12:48	0:15:25
Average Speed	7.76 mph	7.53 mph	7.97 mph
Total time spent on scooters	222 hours	258 hours	25393 hours
New users	100	106	12,962

Minehead Weekly Insights
13/06/2022 - 19/06/2022

This week:

	This Week	Last week	Cumulative
Total Number of rides	587	605	23,065
Total distance travelled	766 miles	771 miles	35,032 miles
Average trip length	1.31 miles	1.27 miles	1.64 miles
Average trip duration	0:15:22	0:14:55	0:16:08
Average Speed	5.1 mph	5.13 mph	6.09 mph
Total time spent on scooters	150 hours	150 hours	6203 hours
New users	282	220	9,080

SWT and SDC Partnership

Officers within the partnership are supporting SDC with their EVCP roll out, Phase 1 roll out having been completed in SWT apart from Swain Street in

Watchet, which is due to be completed soon.. Price per kw has risen from 30p to 45p per kw in response to rising electricity prices. This will be reviewed.

Baseline data on corporate carbon emissions is being collected for SDC while SWT is on Year 2 assessment. Both councils will be using the LGA Greenhouse Gases Toolkit assessment tool. This helps us measure our progress in reducing emissions.

Ecological Emergency Vision and Action plan

As part of the SDC and SWT Partnership, a joint Ecological Emergency Vision and Action Plan has been drafted. Member involvement from both councils has fed into the strategy and action plan, which has been positively received at both Scrutiny and Executive.

ENPA Partnership

The tree planting partnership with Exmoor National Park has now been signed.

National Tree Week 2022

SWT is once again offering Parish Councils, Town Councils and Community Groups across the district free trees as part of its commitment to work towards carbon neutrality and climate resilience by 2030.

To date SWT have provided nearly 400 free trees to Parish Councils, Town Councils and Community Groups for planting, this year the hope is to plant even more. Trees, stakes, ties and guards will be delivered in time for National Tree Week from 26 November to 4 December 2022.



Once the scheme is open there will be a variety of bare root trees to the value of £100 to choose from. These need to be ordered ahead and will be available for collection within an allocated time slot.

If you have any queries or questions please contact Barry Hawkins, Project Manager on b.hawkins@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk

Low Carbon Retrofit Homes

The Council own around 5700 homes which account for about one third of all carbon which Council assets generate. Reducing the amount of heat homes require through better insulation and then switching fuels away from fossil fuels will move the Council towards its ambition of zero carbon. SWT received Social Housing Decarbonisation Wave 1 Funding earlier this year towards delivery of low carbon retrofit to 32 units.



The Council is using Wave 1 funding to test its approach to low carbon retrofit and the potential for some of the properties to reduce their fuel usage by up to 70%. The housing directorate will present to a future full Council a low carbon retrofit strategy and a delivery plan outlining the steps and investment required to achieve 2030 and 2050 targets.

The service is working with tenants as we develop its approach. Our residents will be involved in helping to develop our engagement process when delivering works, including performance monitoring, before and after works.

Somerset Waste Partnership Fixy Mobile repair van

SWP's mobile repair van is now up and running. Named Fixy McFixface in a public vote, the van boasts a solar power supply and offers a portable appliances testing service (PAT) to give fixed electricals a safety check. The Fixy project is being delivered by SWP in partnership with [Resource Futures](#) and [Donate-IT](#) with grant funding from [Ecosurety Exploration Fund](#).

Water refill stations

The refill station in Wellington has now been installed and is going through a period of testing before is it switched on for public use (Taunton and Minehead already in operation). Data on water usage in Taunton and Minehead refill stations suggest there has a been a big saving on purchase of disposable water bottles.