



MDC Mendip Monthly

For our city, town and parish councils

April 2022

Together we are delivering your

New Somerset Council

Elections roundup

Elections will take place on 5th May 2022. 110 councillors in 55 divisions will be elected to the County Council and will take responsibility for all current County Council services and local government reorganisation. This year, voters will be able to elect two candidates in their local division (electoral area).

For the first 'transition' year (May 2022 to end of March 2023), the 110 elected in May 2022 will sit as a county council and will oversee the process to unitary. It means after the election, every part of the county will have two representatives. The existing dual member Glastonbury and Street division will be split into two new divisions, one named Glastonbury and one named Street, each will have two elected representatives.

From 1 April 2023, the county council and four district councils will be dissolved under the Somerset Structural Changes legislation and will become a new Somerset Council.

In April 2023, the new Somerset Council assumes responsibility for all local government functions for Somerset, including those of the current district councils, and the further transition work.

Polling arrangements: Polling takes place between 0700 hrs and 2200 hrs

Polling stations: 477 across the county including Muchelney Abbey (dating back to 7th century), the Tithe Barn in Dunster that dates back to the 16th century; and the Flying Horse pub skittle alley in Taunton.

Eligible electorate: 434,672

Count venues: Counting will start at 10am on Friday 6 May at the following venues:

Mendip: The Pavilion, The Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 6QN

Sedgemoor: Canalside Marsh Lane, Huntworth, Bridgwater TA6 6L.

Somerset West and Taunton: Wellsprings Leisure Centre, Cheddon Road, Taunton TA2 7QP.

South Somerset: Westland Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, Yeovil, BA20 2DD

Estimated FULL COUNCIL DECLARATION time: 4pm

Mendip News

Council pays £150 energy rebate to more than 27,000 Mendip households

More than two thirds of eligible council tax payers in Mendip have been paid their £150 council tax energy rebate. So far, 27,179 households have received the support - a total of more than £4 million paid out.

The work has been significant and extremely complex, but staff have been working hard to process payments quickly and efficiently to support those struggling with household energy costs. You'll find everything you need to know about the energy rebate here: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10897/150-Energy-Rebate>

Electric vehicle charge points to be installed in 13 Mendip car parks

Mendip District Council, alongside partners EB Charging, have announced that 43 electric vehicle (EV) charging points will be installed in 13 council-owned car parks this spring/summer.

The 22kW Alfen Twin chargers will provide much needed battery top-ups to residents, commuters and visitors to the district.

The 43 charge points will be located in Frome, Glastonbury, Street, Wells and Shepton Mallet. This will make electric charging more accessible to drivers, and enable the Council to take important steps forward to meet its climate and ecological emergency objectives.

Works will begin in the spring/summer and are expected to be completed by the autumn.

Free taster sessions for aspiring e-bikers in Mendip

Mendip District Council have partnered up with The Open Road Experience to host five e-bike taster events in Mendip this spring - for free!

The sessions are taking place across the district thanks to funding from the Mendip Tourism Grant, which aimed to support organisations with projects that enhanced Mendip as a tourist destination.

A Frome-based business, The Open Road Experience, offers independent and guided tours on e-bikes and tandems. They received a £5.7k grant to deliver the taster sessions and to purchase an additional electric bike and trailer.

The next free sessions are happening on:

Sunday 8 May - Park Road entrance of Collett Park, Shepton Mallet

Sat 28 May - Somerset Rural Life Museum car park, Glastonbury, BA6 8DB

Guarantee a place at the next e-biking session by booking here:

theopenroadexperience.co.uk. Or take a chance by turning up on the day.

Discover the best of Somerset's sustainable farms and artisan food producers with the Somerset Food Trail Festival: 15-24 July

Somerset is home both to some of Britain's most established food producers - it is the birthplace of English cheddar - and to some of the most innovative artisan food makers working in Britain today.

The Somerset Food Trail Festival on July 15-24 is an 'open farm' and farm-to-fork showcase that puts the spotlight on Somerset's smaller-scale, nature-friendly farmers and artisan producers in all their fascinating diversity, giving visitors a better understanding of where food comes from and the many benefits of buying local.

This year, with a revamped website launching soon and an interactive map, the Trail expects to feature over 100 venues, with funding from Mendip District Council and a number of town councils and supported by a network of around 30 volunteer coordinators.

For further press information please contact: theresa@theresasimon.com or call 07976 766221.

To join as a participant on the Food Trail please contact: susieweldon@icloud.com

Website: www.somersetfoodtrail.uk

Press release: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/10878/Discover-the-best-of-Somerset-s-sustainable-farms-and-artisan-food-producers-with-the-Somerset-Food-Trail-Festival-15-24-July>

Climate action

Mendip Tree Wardens - We need you!

The Mendip Tree wardens enable groups to contact each other to share knowledge and skills as well as enabling training and support for groups. Currently we are looking for one or two groups of people in different parishes who are interested in joining a pilot, before we open it up to the whole district.

If you think there is a group in your parish that would like to get involved at this pilot stage, please contact climate@mendip.gov.uk

Help for businesses

Mobile Boost Scheme

Are you a business or household struggling with poor indoor mobile coverage? Connecting Devon and Somerset may be able to help. The Mobile Boost Scheme offers vouchers towards technology to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas. Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1200 towards the cost of one of a number of mobile signal booster options from a registered supplier. The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises. Suppliers will be able to advise on the most appropriate option. Businesses and residents will be required to make a contribution to cover the cost of installation.

For more information and to apply visit [Mobile Boost Voucher Scheme - a guide - Connecting Devon and Somerset](#)

If you have any questions, visit the [Mobile Boost Scheme FAQs](#) or send an email to enquiries@connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk

Mendip Monthly is compiled and issued by Mendip’s Marketing and Media Team.

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