

## September 2022 District Councillor Report

### Mendip District Council Full Council: Motions carried

On Monday 26 September Full Council meeting of Mendip District Council (MDC) the Green Party proposed 2 motions which were both carried, the first unanimously.

The first related to the Bus-It campaign launched by Somerset County Council (SCC) and was a request to MDC Chief Executive to write to SCC calling on it and its successor body to commit to a timeline to ensure that all areas of Mendip can access, within reasonable walking distance, a bus service usable by all residents.

The second related to the release of sewage into rivers in Mendip and was a call to MDC to recognise its obligations to protect its rivers, recognise that there is a clear deterioration of water quality due to "sewage overload" and to ask Wessex Water to provide detail of the effects of extra loading of sewage and surface water in its planning consultation responses for major developments.

Full details of the motions will be available in the minutes of the 26 September 2022 meeting.

### Mendip launches 'Somerset Energy Saver' to help residents cut energy bills and carbon emissions

**Mendip District Council has launched a campaign to help residents reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.**



The [Somerset Energy Saver](#) is a free, online hub with advice for residents on how to make energy-saving changes to their home.

With energy prices soaring, the campaign helps to raise awareness of the range of measures available - whether through small, free of charge changes, or bigger adjustments to properties, such as installing different types of insulation and exploring alternatives to oil

and gas heating.

It provides information on financial assistance available to eligible residents across Mendip, to help make the bigger energy-saving measures to their home. It also offers advice on Energy Performing Certificates (EPCs) and provides answers to commonly asked questions.

Read full media release here: [www.mendip.gov.uk/article/11189/Mendip-launches-Somerset-Energy-Saver-to-help-residents-cut-energy-bills-and-carbon-emissions](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/11189/Mendip-launches-Somerset-Energy-Saver-to-help-residents-cut-energy-bills-and-carbon-emissions)

## **WANTED! Tree Wardens & biodiversity citizen science volunteers**

**The Mendip Tree Wardens scheme launched earlier this year. Surveying local areas is an interest of the group, along with tree planting and growing native species.**

Training sessions on the following surveys are being delivered with the hope that volunteers will survey their local areas and collect baseline information on the wildlife they share the parish with.

Training has been provided on the following national surveys:

- Ancient Tree Survey (Woodland Trust)
- The Great British Hedgerow Survey (People Trust for Endangered species)

We may be able to get involved in Somerset Wildlife Trust's Ancient Woodland survey. There is also a baseline survey to help start the recording of other wildlife and habitats. These surveys can contribute to local and national database that will help inform us about our valuable local wildlife, which is frequently under recorded.

**If you know of any residents or groups in your ward or parish that might be interested in the above actions, please let them know.**

**If it would be useful to put an article in your local parish or village newsletter, please let me know who to contact.**

*Barbra Lakin - Biodiversity and Landscape Officer*  
[climate@mendip.gov.uk](mailto:climate@mendip.gov.uk).

## Arrive before five: winter hours for recycle sites



**All of Somerset's 16 recycling sites will go over to their winter opening hours from Saturday 1 October.**

remains 9am to 4pm.

This means that on their open days, sites are open 9am to 5pm. Weekend opening

## Fix a date with Fixy

**Businesses in Somerset are invited to Fix a date with Fixy and benefit from the new initiative helping prevent electronic and smart tech going to waste.**

[Fixy](#) is encouraging sustainable consumption and promoting the repair and reuse of electricals and smart tech.

Any tech items your company no longer needs or aren't working can be donated, either to the Fixy van when it visits your area or at a designated drop-off point.

Fixy's partner company, [DonateIT](#) will repair or refurbish the items, making sure they are in full working order before giving them to people that need them. If they cannot be fixed, they will be recycled responsibly.

Donate IT securely cleans all memory so no data is left on the devices. It then donates items to school children, refugees, elderly and isolated people, helping address the digital divide.

Items accepted include smart phones, laptops, tablets, digital cameras, PCs, hard drives, servers and routers, and relevant power cables.

Businesses can also arrange a visit from Fixy at which Coordinator Rob can:

- Take one-off donations of unwanted electrical/smart tech
- Host a one-off smart tech amnesty for you staff to bring in items from home
- Talk to staff about repair and reuse opportunities at Somerset's network of repair cafes.

To find out more and/or arrange for a free Fixy visit, email the coordinator, Rob Hookway [fixy@somersetwaste.gov.uk](mailto:fixy@somersetwaste.gov.uk) or click [here](#) to let us know how you would like to get involved in this initiative.

## **How to access support if you're sponsoring a Ukrainian refugee**

A webpage has been set up to provide information and support for Somerset households who have volunteered to sponsor Ukrainian refugees.

The new webpage can be found at [www.somerset.gov.uk/Ukraine](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/Ukraine). This includes a digital form which should be completed by sponsors who are matched with refugees. This will help local services to carry out the checks sponsors need to safely welcome their guests. On the webpage you will also find information on other ways Somerset residents can support Ukraine, with links to local and national charities and helplines.