Councillor Reports April 2026

Table of Contents

Stephen Hood....1
Templecombe Together....1
Templecombe Social Club....2
Hayward Burt....2
Somerset Residents Use of Dorset Recycling Update....2
Car Parking Review Starts....3
Somerset Council Officer Response to NPPF Consultation:....3
Somerset Rivers Authority Agrees Work Plans for 2026/27:....4
Somerset Council Amalgamates Housing Models:....5
Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy:....5
Crisis and Resilience Fund:....5
Somerset Health & Wellbeing Survey:....5
Transport Delivery Plan....6
Ed Crowther....7
IT and Social Media Report April 2026....7
Peter Coombes....7
Tree green space environment report....7
Sarah Webb....7
Bus Back Better April 2026....7
Planning Report....8
Slades Hill / Knights Meadow Update April 2026....10
Allan Kerry....13
Report Recreation Project and Highways....13
1. Recreation Ground Project:....13
2. Highways issues:....13

Stephen Hood

Templecombe Together

Soup Mondays.

Our Soup Mondays during February and March held at Templecombe United Reform Church, proved to be a great success, attended by many residents and staff from our school. We may repeat in October and November.

Community Lunch.

Our March Lunch was attended by 30 residents, as always I am grateful to those who come to help and those who take the opportunity to enjoy good food in good company.

Men who like to talk.

Our group met for the first time at the Village Hall. This initiative provides an opportunity for men to enjoy a tea/ coffee and biscuits and to talk about anything. This week one of the men who is going through treatment for prostate cancer shared his progress as well as encouraging all to get tested. As in all situations there is humour and there were many during the chat where we shared such moments. The group will meet on the first Friday of each month from 2.30 to 4.00.

Templecombe Social Club

I attended the Social Club Committee Meeting on Wednesday evening.

Although Finances are in good order, in order to keep place with current trends and costs to the Club, it has been decided to increase the cost of drinks by 10%.

An issue at the moment is the shortage of Bar Staff, so much so that certain shifts are unable to be covered and the bar will be closed when this happens. The Committee is actively seeking persons to become bar staff.

There are many event events planned throughout April including the Easter Egg Hunt (took place yesterday and was a great success). Other events include Templecombe Market, Leanne Jackson, a female singer, Bingo, Community Lunch, Line Dancing, pool and skittles.

Hayward Burt

Somerset Residents Use of Dorset Recycling Update

The below is the response received from Cabinet member Richard Wilkins, since Dorset have brought in their booking and charging system
“Historically, Somerset and Dorset residents have used whichever household recycling site was most convenient, as neither authority operated access controls across the Somerset/Dorset bounder and naturally there has been flows cross boundary flows and has been a practical arrangement based on open access.
Dorset’s decision to introduce both a booking system and new charging arrangements now changes that position, and we are in active discussions with them about how this will work for Somerset residents who routinely use Dorset sites. These conversations are constructive, but there are some practical challenges we need to work through.
A key issue is that Dorset’s new model assumes neighbouring authorities also operate a booking system. Somerset does not currently have a booking system, which creates administrative and verification difficulties around cross border use. Officers are working directly with Dorset to ensure Somerset residents are not disadvantaged while we navigate this change.
Linked to this, Somerset is currently assessing the potential benefits of booking systems, for example fairness, traffic management, operational efficiency and customer experience and whether such an approach would be viable for Somerset’s own service. Dorset’s move forms part of that assessment, but no decisions have been taken.
It’s also worth noting that Somerset provides a comprehensive, high performing network of recycling sites across the county, meaning most residents are already well served locally. For those

communities close to the Dorset border, we recognise the importance of ensuring any new arrangements remain practical.
Once our discussions with Dorset progress and our own internal assessments for a Somerset booking system progress further and we have clarity on how access will operate under their new system, we will provide a full member update."

Car Parking Review Starts

A review of car parking charges across Somerset has started.
It includes proposals, for a new tiered pricing structure for both on-street and off-street parking. This would see car parks placed within a sliding scale of fees depending on location.
The new charging structure would apply seven days a week, but if adopted would still include periods of free parking for some car parks. Any introduction of fees to existing free car parks would be evidence-based following discussions with local businesses, council members, town, city and parish councils and other stakeholders.
Following this week's decision there will now be comprehensive survey and information gathering exercise across all of Somerset's 200 Council-run car parks, as well as on-street parking locations.
A report will be brought back to Executive later in the year on the suggested pricing for various tiers before a locally-based consultation process can begin with communities. This will be ahead of any decision on which tier will be allocated to each car park and will include any necessary measures such as double yellow lines to protect residential areas from any potential parking displacement.
The draft five tiers show indicative charges which would be applicable seven days a week and would be finalised after the review. They have been developed by an external specialist and they are based on a combination of existing charges around the four legacy council areas alongside benchmarking against neighbouring authorities.
Once the survey is complete Executive will consider a more detailed system later in the year with car parks placed in their relative tiers with a view to approving the proposed charging structure pending engagement with communities.
The review will also look at a consistent approach to concessions and season ticket charges as well as rationalising pay and display infrastructure and transition to cashless systems where feasible.
Any proposals signed off by the Council will need to go through the statutory Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation process where formal to record consider objections and comments will be considered.

Somerset Council Officer Response to NPPF Consultation:

Somerset Council has submitted an officer response to the Government's consultation on proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework. The response supports elements such as a clearer plan-led system, increased housing delivery and the introduction of spatial development strategies, while also identifying a number of areas where amendments are sought. These include concerns about the deliverability of the proposed 30-month timetable for local plans, the capacity required to produce supporting evidence, and the application of national policies in large rural areas.
The submission also raises points relating to housing delivery, climate and flood risk policy, and the role of local decision-making within the planning system
NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) Consultation
Below is the response from the CCN (County Councils Network) on the Government changes to NPPF
Our response highlights that the proposals would shift planning decisions away from local authorities and communities – towards a nationally-set framework from government. This is because the new NPPF moves towards a 'one size fits all' set of decision-making policies, set by government. Many of these will override local policies, making it harder for councils to challenge development in all but exceptional circumstances.

Measures planned by government that weaken local communities' voice in the planning system include:

- New national decision-making policies which centralise much of planning policy, effectively overriding councils' local policies and decisions. It means councils will have to approve developments that adhere to these 'one size fits all' policies.
- Consequently, councils 'should approve' development near any train station with four or more trains an hour, putting many rural stations open to speculative and damaging development – and with no consideration of infrastructure capacity.
- Councils will also be told to approve development on the outskirts of towns and villages where there is 'unmet need', which could lead to increased piecemeal and speculative development, regardless of infrastructure capacity.
- This is because the continued requirement to demonstrate a five year housing land supply will mean county unitary councils have to show evidence they have a supply of deliverable sites to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against their housing targets. Local authorities say this sets up councils to fail: developers could build out their planning permissions slowly – or not in full – ensuring that councils cannot meet their land supply targets. This means developers could use this 'unmet need' policy to secure approval for unpopular development in unsuitable locations.
- Previous announcements in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill seek to 'streamline' development, only allowing councils' planning committees to debate major developments and presuming approval for smaller proposals. This is a significant concern in rural areas where even a few dozen homes can dramatically alter a village.

Under the government's mandatory housing targets, introduced last year, on average county areas will see a 56% increase in the number of homes they have to deliver – 64,000 per year or an extra 1,245 houses per week. This is over seven times the increase for councils in England's major cities. In a previous survey ran by the CCN, seven in ten councils said they supported the principle of nationally-set targets, but over nine in ten respondents believed their target was too high, whilst others raised concerns over a lack of infrastructure to support development.

Because of these high housing targets and increasing pressure to deliver, CCN argues that the proposed measures could lead to a 'developer free for all' in county areas whereby councils' ability to debate and challenge unsuitable proposals is severely weakened, and believe that these changes risk undermining the plan-led planning system, where councils set out a long-term vision for housing and growth through their Local Plans, identifying appropriate sites for development and ensuring infrastructure can support it.

We know that CCN members support a plan-led system and believe the reforms proposed will undermine this. To better support the local delivery of housing in suitable and sustainable locations, we are calling for the proposed decision-making policies in the NPPF to be a starting point, with authorities able to deviate from these where this is justified and based on evidence. We are also calling for the government to scrap the requirement to maintain a five-year land supply where an authority has an up-to-date local plan or at least publish stronger guidance to prevent the rule from being manipulated by developers.

Whilst the government has announced a raft of planning changes since it took power in summer 2024, it has made few pledges to boost infrastructure – at a time when housing targets are dramatically increasing for many county areas. We are therefore also urging the government to ensure infrastructure is forward funded and provided before housing is occupied.

Somerset Rivers Authority Agrees Work Plans for 2026/27:

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) has approved its enhanced programme of works for 2026/27, backed by several million pounds of investment in flood prevention and resilience measures across the county. This includes £775,000 for River Parrett dredging and maintenance, £425,000 for

natural flood management through the Hills to Levels programme, and £350,000 for enhanced gully clearing, alongside £150,000 for drain jetting.

Somerset Council Amalgamates Housing Models:

Somerset Council has approved plans to bring its two housing management models into a single system, transferring all landlord functions into its arm's length company, Homes in Somerset. The change will see around 9,700 council homes managed under one structure, with the council retaining ownership of the housing stock and responsibility for the Housing Revenue Account. The move is intended to reduce duplication, improve consistency for tenants and deliver financial efficiencies, with early estimates suggesting potential savings of around £3.5 million per year over time.

Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

Somerset Council has approved the publication of its Local Nature Recovery Strategy, fulfilling its statutory duty under the Environment Act 2021. The strategy sets out priorities for habitat and species recovery, alongside mapping areas where action will deliver the greatest environmental benefit. It is intended to provide a strategic framework to guide planning, Biodiversity Net Gain, land management and investment decisions across the county. The strategy has been developed with input from partners including statutory agencies, landowners and community groups, and will support coordinated delivery of nature recovery, climate resilience and environmental improvement. New phoneline for residents struggling to afford the increasing cost of oil: Somerset Council has launched a dedicated phoneline to support residents struggling with the rising cost of heating oil, delivered in partnership with Citizens Advice Somerset. The service allows residents in need of financial assistance to call a freephone number, 0808 278 7842, and request support from the Household Support team. The initiative is funded through the Household Support Fund as part of the Help Through Winter programme, with additional support also available through the council's Help4All scheme and community hubs network.

Crisis and Resilience Fund:

Somerset Council has approved plans to deliver the Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund, a three-year programme running from April 2026 to March 2029 aimed at supporting households facing financial hardship. The council will receive £21.5 million over the period, with £7.2 million allocated in each of the first two years and £7.1 million in the final year. The fund will provide immediate financial support for essentials such as food, energy and housing costs, alongside longer-term measures including debt advice, benefit checks and employment support. Delivery will be carried out in partnership with voluntary and community organisations, with a focus on both crisis response and building long-term financial resilience.

Somerset Health & Wellbeing Survey:

Somerset Council's Public Health team has launched a new survey to gather residents' views on health and wellbeing priorities across the county. The survey aims to inform future service planning, building on previous feedback which has shaped areas such as smoking cessation and healthy eating support. You can take part in the consultation by 27th April here :
https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/public-health/somerset-health-wellbeing-survey/

Transport Delivery Plan

Somerset's four-year Local Transport Delivery Plan, focusing on active travel and accessibility, has been endorsed.

The Council must submit its spending plans to the Government for the first of the four years by 20 March setting out where money will be spent in 2026-2027, including road maintenance, bus services and active travel.

The plan focuses on active travel, accessibility and local transport and has been developed with input from a range of organisations and interest groups including Somerset Bus Advisory Board, the Local Community Networks' Active Travel Group and bus passenger groups.

Accessibility plays a key role in the plan to make sure that everyone can use local transport easily and safely, from buses, cycleways and pavements to street lighting, bus stops and rail stations.

The plan includes preparation for the Government's Project Coral providing a back-office system for multi-operator tickets and real-time information at key transport interchanges.

It covers proposed spending on:

Active travel

- Bus service enhancement
- Traffic signals renewal and refurbishment
- Bus shelters
- Transport hubs
- Bus priority scheme
- Road safety
- Better integration with rail services
- Highways maintenance

New investment aims to boost gully clearance and spruce up signs, lines and footpaths

The green light has been given to a £5m enhanced maintenance programme featuring a huge gully clearance push and work to tackle faded road markings, broken signs and overgrown pathways.

The first £2 million for 2026/27 was agree last week (April 1) to get the programme running during this month.

Current road maintenance programmes prioritise safety critical works which can mean lower-level issues like faded road markings, broken signs and overgrown hedges are left unresolved, often for many years.

The new spending proposals will deliver a range of visible improvements like clearing more drains and gullies, fixing and cleaning road signs, repainting faded road markings, collecting litter, and clearing overgrown vegetation, particularly on walking and cycling routes.

Improvements will also be made to the council's public reporting system, to make it even easier for residents to highlight any issues on the roads.

The work will be carried out by one of the Council's current highways contractors, Kier, which will deal with signing, lining and gully clearance, as well as the Council's own Open Spaces Team, which will tackle overgrown vegetation and other tidying work alongside collecting litter.

The enhanced gully emptying will see an intensive one-year intensive clearance in areas vulnerable to a 1 in 100-year flood events – adding up to about 65,000 extra gullies during the current year.

The £5 million maintenance programme will run for 3 years – 2026/27 to 2028/29 with the aim of making a big visible difference to communities from the start and during year one.

While focusing mainly on vegetation clearance, the extra open spaces operatives will also be able to pick up other tasks while they are out and about such as graffiti removal and picking up litter.

If you spot a problem of the road visit www.somerset.gov.uk and search report a problem on the road

Ed Crowther

IT and Social Media Report April 2026

At the next meeting we will need to approve the IT Policy .
I am aware that there are some contradictions in this policy with the email policy, however I understand we must have a policy in place for the annual audit
and there are no major problems.
I will do a complete audit of all IT policies when I return from holiday as I have been made aware that some of our policies have outdated references in them.

Other wise there is nothing to report

Peter Coombes

Tree green space environment report

Wood chip at park will be all moved to one location in prep for November tree planting a few delays have hinder this happening sooner

Yew tree has come out of winter suffering stress also amount of dead wood in tree has increased

I've taken 3 batches of cuttings over the last 12 months with a 100% failure I will attempt another batch this weekend

Weed spraying all areas as last year required will carry out asap

Sarah Webb

Bus Back Better April 2026

The Department for Transport (DfT) have announced that Somerset Council will receive £13.1m of additional funding to support both bus Services and network infrastructure in Somerset . The additional funding is to be rolled out between 2026 and 2029, would help local travel become more reliable. The three-year funding commitment is designed to give councils the certainty to create longer-term plans around bus travel, rather than running on a year-by-year basis. SERVICE 58 Timetable Changes Despite increased funding there will be a further negative change to the 58 route from Wincanton to Yeovil via Templecombe operated by First Bus (Buses of Somerset) Date of timetable change: Sunday 20 April The Service 58A route is withdrawn with the new timetable meaning no Saturday service at all for Stalbridge. Knock on effects include the withdrawal of the 1645 journey from Yeovil to Wincanton on Monday to Friday, leaving a gap of over 2 hours between journeys in both directions during the evening peak. On Saturday, the service is every 2

hours throughout, meaning a reduction from the current Saturday offering which has additional journeys at the beginning of the day and at the end of the day.
The current Timetable for the 58 route from Wincanton to Yeovil via Templecombe can be found at: https://www.firstbus.co.uk/somerset/plan-journey/timetables. Since January 2026, Somerset bus fares will largely be capped at a maximum of £3 for single journeys under the national fare cap scheme, with First Bus implementing £2.40 for short hops (under 3 miles) and offering Tap On Tap Off for best value, while child fares are half price, all part of a simplified zone system (Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Network). Key Fare Details from January 2026: ˅ National £3 Fare Cap: A government-backed scheme keeps most single bus journeys in England, including Somerset, at a maximum of £3 extended in most areas until March 2027 ˅ First Bus Somerset Changes: o Short Hops: Journeys under 3 miles cost £2.40. o Longer Journeys: Max out at £3, aligning with the national cap. o Child Fares: Half the adult single fare. ˅ Tap On Tap Off: Using contactless, you automatically get the best fare, with daily and weekly caps ensuring you never pay more than the zone limit.
˅ Fare Zones: Simplified into Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, and Network zones for easier understanding. How to Check Fares: ˅ Use the First Bus app or website to plan journeys and see specific prices. ˅ Check the Think Travel website for general updates and participating operators.

Planning Report

Significant Updates Planning Report April 2026
There have been a number of occasions when the Somerset Planning Portal does not appear to be available and a complaint has been made. The following message has now appeared:
PLEASE NOTE We are currently experiencing intermittent issues with the South webpage but are working on getting them resolved. If you encounter any issues, please contact planningsouth@somerset.gov.uk to enable our ICT Team to restore the service as a matter of priority. Thank you for your patience and apologies for any inconvenience caused.
This report is based on information from the planning portal on 5/4/26 because the Planning Portal was unavailable on 11/4/26.
New
S73 application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans) and 3 (materials) of approval 25/01320/HOU for Erection of a single storey oak framed barn for parking vehicles. Open for comment icon
The Cider Press Middle Throop Farm Throop Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HR
Ref. No: 26/00606/S73 | Received: Fri 13 Mar 2026 | Validated: Thu 26 Mar 2026 | Status: Awaiting decision
(Introduction of clay tiles to match the host dwelling and a slight increase in the overall height of the proposed barn to accommodate the tiles)

Change of use from mixed use (dwelling and former fish and chip shop) to a single dwelling house (Use Class C3) Retrospective Open for comment icon
1 High Street Templecombe Somerset BA8 0JA
Ref. No: 26/00489/FUL Received: Mon 02 Mar 2026 Validated: Fri 13 Mar 2026 Status: Awaiting decision

Discharge of conditions No.01 (time), No.02 (external walls and roofs), No.03 (repair specification), No.04 (existing rear roof slope), No.05 (link extension details), No.06 (trickle vents), No.07 (roof lights), No.08 (details of services), No.09 (replacement plasters and surfaces) of planning application 16/05493/FUL and 16/05494/LBC, No.10 (biodiversity measures), and No.11

(approved plans) of planning application 16/05493/FUL and No.10 (approved plans) of 16/05494/LBC. Open for comment icon
Middle Throop Farm 13 Throop Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HR
Ref. No: 26/00416/DOC1 Received: Mon 23 Feb 2026 Validated: Thu 12 Mar 2026 Status: Awaiting decision

26/00443/ADV Display of 7 No. non illuminated wall mounted business identification signs at The Old Sidings Business Park, Templecombe (retrospective application)
Unit 2 And 3 The Old Sidings Station Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0JR

S73A Application to vary Condition 01 (approved plans) for minor amendments relating to planning permission 21/00046/REM; Reserved matters application of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, following outline approval (18/02739/OUT) for residential development comprising up to 70 dwellings and associated open space, landscaping works and area for school expansion, together with new access and drainage infrastructure Open for comment icon
Land at Slades Hill Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HE
Ref. No: 26/00427/S73A Received: Mon 23 Feb 2026 Validated: Mon 16 Mar 2026 Status: Awaiting decision

S73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (‘the Act’) – ‘Determination of applications to develop land without compliance with conditions previously attached’

• Installation of wooden fencing around attenuation pond;
• Amendment to LEAP location;
• Removal of attenuation pond vehicle access;
• Removal of block paving for tarmac;
• Removal of permeable paving and swales; and
• Relocation of bird and bat boxes.

Remediation Works 4.7. Following discussions with Officers, the Applicant has agreed to undertake the following remediation works to the scheme. It is not envisaged these works would warrant the need of a planning condition. • Officers have noted that the surface which the LEAP has been built upon, as well as the POS near Blackmore Vale Close, contains rubble and stones which may pose a risk to its users. The Applicant has agreed to clear any rubble before the use of the LEAP. • The Applicant has contacted all residents in relation to their green travel voucher and that the missing signage and community board will be managed by Trace Design who are the Travel Plan coordinator for this scheme3. • The Applicant will ensure that all EV charging sockets are installed, in line with the approved plans. • The Applicant has been made aware through discussions with Officers that planting and maintenance has not been in accordance with the previously approved documents. The Applicant is in discussions with the appointment Landscape Contractor to investigate these works and align them with approved documents. 1 Armstrong v Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities & Anor [2023] EWHC 176 2 Finney v Welsh Ministers & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 1868 3 This is chiefly a s.106 planning obligation matter, not pertinent to the approved drawings February 2026 | LB | P26-0396 10 • The pedestrian link to Church Hill is to be expedited.

Pending

Reserved Matters approval for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of 140 no. dwellings in accordance with Conditions 1 and 2 of the Outline Planning Permission 22/03560/OUT
Land OS 6975 South Of Bowden Road Templecombe Somerset
Ref. No: 25/02759/REM Received: Fri 14 Nov 2025 Validated: Mon 19 Jan 2026 Status: Awaiting decision
Comments have now closed. The Parish Council has made a submission objecting to the application in a number of areas.

24/01732/REM Reserved Matters application for the approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of 49 dwellings following outline approval 19/01604/OUT; Outline application with all matters reserved save for access for residential development for up to 49 dwellings including landscaping, drainage and new vehicle access from West Street .

Most recent update: 19 Jan 2026 Amended plans and documents submitted to provide a comprehensive response to matters raised by consultees to the Reserved Matters submission.
The initial Reserved Matters application proposed 22 open market units and 27 affordable housing units. Magna Housing now intend to bring forward all the units as affordable housing with 35% (17) as the s106 requirement and the remaining 65% (32) as additionality housing i.e. delivered with Homes England funding. Of the 17 s106 affordable units, 8 are for social rent and 9 shared ownership. Of the remaining 32 additional units, 21 will be for social rent and 11 shared ownership. In total the site will secure 29 social rent units and 20 shared ownership units.

21/02436/FUL Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 18 detached bungalows with associated parking and access. Knights Templar Court Nursing Home Throop Road Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HR.
No further update:
20 May 2024 Appeal decided and allowed subject to conditions.

Slades Hill / Knights Meadow Update April 2026

1. Introduction
The site has been fully occupied since early September 2025.
Reserved Matters Approval (9 July 2021) required full compliance with all conditions, or the site may be subject to enforcement action.
The following conditions should have been complied with by late 2025 or early 2026:

- All Ecology Strategy features before occupation of the final (70th) dwelling
- Full landscaping including the community orchard by the first dormant season and before occupation of final dwelling
- All boundary treatments within 3 months of substantial completion
- Footpath link to Church Hill within 3 months of substantial completion
- School expansion and burial ground land transfer outstanding.

LEAP opening
None of these conditions have been met.
2. Section 73 Planning Application
26/00427/S73A|S73A Application to vary Condition 01 (approved plans) for minor amendments relating to planning permission 21/00046/REM; Reserved matters application of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale, following outline approval (18/02739/OUT) for residential development comprising up to 70 dwellings and associated open space, landscaping works and area for school expansion, together with new access and drainage infrastructure
Land at Slades Hill Templecombe Somerset BA8 0HE
This representation was submitted in February and validated on 16 March with public comment available until 7 April and is submitted in response to application 26/00427/S73A which seeks amendments to the Reserved Matters approval 21/00046/REM, itself pursuant to outline consent 18/02739/OUT.
The application requests multiple changes to key design, drainage, landscape and ecological elements of the approved scheme. Many elements currently on site were constructed without permission, and this S73A application seeks to regularise those unauthorised deviations.
Installation of wooden fencing around attenuation pond;
Amendment to LEAP location;
Removal of attenuation pond vehicle access;
Removal of block paving for tarmac;
Removal of permeable paving and swales; and
Relocation of bird and bat boxes.
The planning statement submitted with the application notes separate to amendments the following Remediation Works:
“Following discussions with Officers, the Applicant has agreed to undertake the following remediation works to the scheme. It is not envisaged these works would warrant the need of a planning condition.
• Officers have noted that the surface which the LEAP has been built upon, as well as the POS near Blackmore Vale Close, contains rubble and stones which may pose a risk to its users. The Applicant has agreed to clear any rubble before the use of the LEAP.
• The Applicant has contacted all residents in relation to their green travel voucher and that the missing signage and community board will be managed by Trace Design who are the Travel Plan coordinator for this scheme3. However, at least one resident has reported in the last 2 weeks they have not yet been contacted.
• The Applicant will ensure that all EV charging sockets are installed, in line with the approved plans.
• The Applicant has been made aware through discussions with Officers that planting and maintenance has not been in accordance with the previously approved documents. The Applicant is in discussions with the appointment Landscape Contractor to investigate these works and align them with approved documents”.
These issues remain outstanding
3. Current Status of the Development
Landscaping and Works Promised for January 2026
Tilia notified residents in late December 2025 that the following work would begin in January 2026:
- Turfing the frontage on the right--hand side of the main entrance and paths near the pedestrian link
- Installing:
o
o a lifebuoy post at the attenuation pond

o
o a bollard near Plot 21
o
o close--board fencing at both ends of the maintenance corridors (“3m offsets”)

- Stone picking and seeding public open spaces
- Completing the school playing field extension within 4—6 weeks by importing and spreading topsoil

However, no update was given regarding:

- LEAP opening
- Traffic calming completion
- Public open space maintenance
- Completion of the planting scheme

Current Position

- Only limited turfing has taken place.
- The lifebuoy post is installed but no lifebuoy is in place.
- Additional wooden posts around the attenuation pond appear to further restrict vehicle access, which conflicts with the maintenance access requirements although amendment to vehicular access is part of the S73 application.
- Close--board fencing installed in February blocked all access to the 3m offsets, including emergency access needed for oil--spill response and gabion wall maintenance. Narrow gates have now been installed, but they do not provide full access and are not properly secured.
- Boundary fences built within the 3m offset remain unresolved and continue to compromise emergency access and structural protection.
- Significant levelling and soil importation continues at the school field, which remains incomplete.
- There has been no evidence of stone picking.
- Some additional surface preparation has commenced on the Footpath link to Church Hill
- Additional fencing has been installed surrounding the LEAP which is not compliant with current planning conditions.
- The Parish Council is actively pursuing Somerset Council on the Section 106 obligation relating to the burial ground extension, which remains incomplete.

Allan Kerry

Report Recreation Project and Highways

1. Recreation Ground Project:

a. The path project started on 7th April as planned and the first section in front of the social club upto and round the BMX track is progressing well. It has been amazing how many people are unaware what is happening despite efforts to communicate the plan. On the other hand it is good to hear that people look forward to running around the track.
b. I would like to confirm the costs will be close to £60K including the extras mentioned last month. However, I want to query the costs of the access to the tennis court which will cost in the region of £6000 for the approx 65m which seems excessive to me if all we are doing is avoiding members changing their shoes when they get to the court. The route via the Car Park is almost all hard pathway if members use the corner gate by the BMX track.
To put this in context the savings would finance the 'safe surface' for the Outdoor Gym or allow us to turn that £6000 into £12,000 if it was match funded.
I propose that we delete the additional path to the Tennis courts on the grounds that the issue we are trying to solve is easily overcome by the members.
c. Stephen has requested that our quotes need to be updated in order to make future application so I have asked the relevant people to update their costings.Tom Paulley has responded with an increase for the MUGA surface to £46,000 up from £41,500 previously - an increase of 11%

2. Highways issues:

a. The SID is now operational at the White Cottages (thanks to Ed). This is an improvement in adherence to the 20mph limit. We still need to get appropriate brackets (David is sorting)
b. A letter has been sent to our MP Sarah Dyke regarding the Westcombe /Vine Street/West Street/Bowden Road traffic issues and the additional 200 houses in the area. She has been invited to walk the area with us to see for herself. No response has been forthcoming so far. The issue is also on the South East Highways LCN meeting in early June.