Councillor Reports June 2026

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Hayward Burt

Pothole Repairs Priority

I have been contacted by a number of parishes with concerns over slowness of pothole repairs and other road related repair issues. (You will see later in my report the number of reported Potholes and the number which have been repaired)
Please see below a response from our local Highways repair manager

“I am aware there is increasing frustration across the county regarding how our contractor is currently managing its workload. The exceptionally high number of defects earlier in the year has exacerbated this situation.
Once defects have been identified by Somerset Council in accordance with the highway safety inspection policy, it is the responsibility of Kier (our contractor) to programme and prioritise the repairs. The policy categorises defects and sets response timescales based on severity, location, and risk.
While I am unable to go into detail regarding contractual matters, I can advise that temporary measures have been introduced to help address the backlog and improve delivery.
Kier retain liability for any defects that are not addressed within the required timescales. As such, the Council’s role is to monitor performance and ensure compliance with the agreed standards, rather than direct day-to-day operational programming.
I hope this is helpful and would like to reassure you that there should be a noticeable improvement in defect repair delivery going forward.”

Use of Dorset (Sherborne) recycling facilities by Somerset residents

In an earlier report I gave you an update on where Somerset discussions with Dorset council on this issue (see below) This was from Cabinet member Richard Wilkinson on April 1st , I have now asked for a further update and will share with you when its received
April 1st response “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.”

Air Ambulance

You will have seen earlier updates on the second helicopter and moving the base, but please see below the latest update

Following our initial correspondence in January, I was getting back in touch to inform you that Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance is launching its community consultation on proposals for a new airbase in Yeovil next to Leonardo Helicopters.

We will be running an online consultation between now and Sunday 14th June where all the relevant information will be displayed along with a portal where visitors can leave feedback. The website is: https://dsaa.your-feedback.co.uk/

Additionally, we are holding a drop-in session where residents and other interested parties can meet the project team, and the same materials will be exhibited as those displayed on the website:

Location: Parish Suite, Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, Yeovil, BA20 2DD . **Date:** Tuesday 2nd June 2026 . **Time:** 4pm to 7pm

Changes to Council Face-to-Face Opening Hours

Please see below information on a briefing I was sent, I would appreciate feedback on face to face services for residents

“This briefing is being provided to advise members of proposed changes to Customer Service Point (CSP) face-to-face opening hours, enabling us to better align resources with customer demand—particularly increasing support to telephone services where demand and pressure are highest.

A review of face-to-face demand across all locations (March 2025 – March 2026) shows that usage is concentrated in a short window during the day, with very low demand at opening and closing times.

Summary. Face-to-face demand at the start and end of the day is very low, while demand on telephone services remains high. Adjusting opening hours allows us to rebalance resource to where it is most needed, improving access and service for residents overall. A successful trial during Council Tax billing has demonstrated that this approach works in practice.

Key background information:

•Just 7.6% of face-to-face enquiries take place between 9am–9.30am

•Demand drops significantly later in the day: 1.5% between 4pm–4.30pm, 1% between 4.30pm–5pm. •On average, this equates to:

Around 6 customers across all locations early morning, Around 1 customer across all locations in late afternoon

•Demand peaks mid-morning (10am–noon) and then declines, with the lowest usage at the end of the day. This demonstrates that a significant proportion of staffed opening time currently has very low customer use.

At the same time, telephone services consistently experience higher volumes and sustained pressure throughout the day and demand via phone significantly outweighs face-to-face demand during under-utilised periods

This creates an imbalance, where staff are present in buildings during low-demand periods while customers are waiting on the phone.

Trial During Council Tax Billing. We undertook a trial of adjusted face-to-face opening hours during the Council Tax annual billing period—traditionally one of the busiest times for customer contact.
The trial allowed resource to be redirected to telephone services, supporting higher call demand during peak periods
No adverse impact on face-to-face access was identified and the approach proved operationally effective and sustainable.
Change from June 2026
Face-to-face opening hours will be adjusted at the start and end of the day. Reception doors will remain open from 9am to 5pm for customers attending appointments or using self-service, with security staff present throughout. Customer service staff will be available for walk-in support between 10am and 4pm.
We will use the released capacity to: Strengthen telephone response, Reduce waiting times, Improve overall customer experience
Impact on Residents. Most residents will see little or no change, as services remain available at the busiest times. Support for vulnerable customers will remain in place, including access to face-to-face support where required.

Project is a true game changer

Gaming sessions designed for adults who are autistic, have learning disabilities, experience mental ill-health, or identify as neurodiverse, are being celebrated by Somerset Council in June
GameChanger - weekly, free sessions for over-18s – is marking a milestone fourth anniversary. There are no referrals, no assessments and no pressure to participate. People arrive and leave in their own time, on their own terms.
The events take place at libraries in Taunton, Yeovil and Glastonbury, and at a community centre in Bridgwater.
Since launching in June 2022 GameChanger has seen 15,140 visits across 581 sessions.
The idea was thought up by Alex Rowland, who has worked in social care for more than 20 years. Now self-employed, he co-founded Love Community to realise community projects that combine his interests in video games, social media and enabling access to technology.
Sessions are intentionally designed so that: Gaming is shared, encouraging conversation and cooperation, Movement-based games (such as Ring Fit, Wii Sports and Just Dance) sit alongside console gaming, Social connection matters as much as the technology, People are welcomed exactly as they are

Council on road to recovery after record wet winter

Between January and 8 May this year 19,277 potholes were logged, compared to 11,908 in the same period last year, nearly a 62 per cent increase. Of those reported this year, 15,771 have now been repaired by the council's contractor Kier – an average of 876 per week.
In addition to this work, 831,000 sqm of road have been surface dressed this year. Surface dressing is a key preventative treatment which extends the life span of the road surface and is crucial to help stop potholes forming.
Potholes logged

April 2,905. March 5,035. February 6,068. January 4,711
Repairs per month
April (four week period) 3,739. March (five week period) 4,964
February 3,554. January 2,541
If you spot a problem on the road you can report it quickly and easily here
www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/

Time to check or renew your Garden Waste subscription

Somerset residents are being encouraged to check ahead and renew, or sign up to, the Garden Waste subscription service to help make sure collections continue smoothly through the busiest time of year for renewals.
If a resident provides an email address when they subscribe, Somerset Council will send an email reminder in the month before the subscription is due to end.
Residents can check when their subscription is due using the online form at:
www.somerset.gov.uk/check-garden-waste

Somerset: From here to Eternia

Film and television productions spent more than £6m in Somerset last year, according to the latest Screen Somerset estimates.
The figures come ahead of the release of two more major productions that have shot in Somerset locations: Masters of the Universe and season two of A Good Girl's Guide to Murder.
Masters of the Universe, a blockbuster outing for the 80s cartoon set on the magical planet of Eternia, filmed at Wells Cathedral and Wookey Hole Caves last summer. With a cast including Somerset's very own James Purefoy as King Randor, father of Prince Adam/He-Man, the film is scheduled for release in the UK on 3 June.
Season two of A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is due for release on Netflix and the BBC on 27 May, following the big success of season one in 2024. Starring Emma Meyer as teenage sleuth Pip, the Somerset town of Axbridge again takes centre stage as the fictional location of Little Kilton.

Ed Crowther

Web and Social Media Report June 2026

AI Policy
Have looked at the use of AI and its clear councillors will be breaking GDPR rules if they use their own accounts, however use of the Parish councils account is limited by the fact that we seem to have only a family plan. (only the account holder has access to AI).
This limits it to only the account holder for Copilot use.
To change to a business plan would cost the council at least a further £70 a year.
What ever the council decide on this its imperative that we have a policy in place to make sure that we are not breaking the rules.
Website
The website is currently being updated to reflect the changes to the council.

Maria Vaughan and Tara Williams

PROW Report to Parish Council for Abbas and Templecombe.

Landowners are obliged to keep the PROWs on their land accessible and unobstructed. The majority do so but there are a few who require ‘reminding’.
Not only is this important to allow access to the countryside but allowing vegetation to get overgrown also poses a risk to humans and dogs from ticks and
Lyme Disease. Overgrown footpaths and unclear paths mean that people trample multiple routes across the fields/crops as there is no defined path to follow.
The area becomes very trampled as they do not always follow the same route across. There is also an increased risk to leverets and ground nesting birds,
especially by dogs.
Abbas and Templecombe has 19 PROWs so the plan is to focus on clearing and maintaining these then start looking at where that footpath leads -
Horsington, Yenston, Henstridge etc to keep it clear along its length. All are footpaths, apart from WN29/1, 3 & 11 which are bridleways. WN29/13, WN29/14,
WN29/15 & WN29/23 are pavements within residential areas so only 15 paths require regular monitoring and maintenance

WN29/16	From end of Lily Lane towards Stowell Farm		Edge of field - rutted	Growth of grass	None. Can use field edge

WN29/17	Continuation of 29/16	Splits into 7/28 and 19/19	Distinct farm track leading to farm entrance/exit 7/28	None	None
WN29/19	Continuation of 29/17	Joins road near Clare Farm, Stowell	Across arable field	No path left in 2025, planted & not reinstated	None. Field finel ploughed easy to cross
WN29/20	Turning off from 29/16	Over railway bridge towards Newleaze Farm	Across cow fields	Long grass	None
WN29/21	From 29/20 via Bowden Road	Runs alongside Martin's Copse	Edge of arable fields		Fallen branch at chest/head height
Path Ref.	**Location**	**Notes**	**Terrain**	**Potential issues**	**Current issue**
WN29/13 WN29/14 WN29/15 WN29/23	In residential areas		Tarmac pavement	Unlikely	
WN29/12	From Yew Tree. Joins 29/13 (Yenston)	Towards Common Lane Farm.	Across cow fields	Long grass and electric fences	None
WN29/1	Bridleways	End of Throop Road at Vale Farm. Crosses railway to Abbey Ford Bridge	Path crosses field in long grass, not defined to gate crossing railway line	Overgrowth of grass	Starting to get overgrown but may be cut for hay?
WN29/3		Joins WN14/29	Path crosses field	Overgrowth of	Starting to get
		(Horsington?)	in long grass, not defined	grass	overgrown but may be cut
WN29/2	From end of Throop Road	Crosses railway to Temple Lane/Gigg Lane	Round edge of field to boardwalk	Overgrowth of vegetation	None
WN29/10	From Temple Lane at Moormill Bridge	Towards Higher Nyland into **DORSET**	A&T section not waymarked or obvious. Across grass field, no direction	Long grass	Long grass, path undefined. Stops at stream -

					no crossing point
WN29/11	Bridleway joining 12/8 and then 12/43 Common Lane	Joins WN12/8 towards Common Lane	Edge of field to gate		None

Path Ref.	Location	Notes	Terrain	Potential issues	Current issue	Responsibility	ACTION
WN29/5	Slades hill layby on Tower Hill towards Marshbarn Farm	Becomes 29/8	Starts as a farm vehicle track becoming grass and enclosed	Grass & nettle growth. Tree growth from sides		?	Monitor growth of grass. Risk of ticks.
WN29/8	Links with 14/35 and 14/16 (Horsington)	Was cleared late 2025 but not sufficiently. Arranged by Paula Bruton(?)	Grass track across fields. Issues arise at stile leading into vegetation	Vegetation growth	Enclosed path becoming obstructed by vegetation - Empire Farm	Empire Farm	The Parish Council contacted Empire Farm. May 2026 TW reported to PROW 16/05/2026 #86766
WN29/6	Off from 29/5 around the back of Thales	Ends on Throop Road	Narrow grass track	Grass & nettle growth	Starting to become overgrown; will soon close off	Thales?	Notify the landowner that this path is closing off due to vegetation growth.
WN29/4	From 29/5 follows parallel to Throop Road, exiting at Throop Farm	Enclosed grass track with gates and FBs	Grass	Grass & nettle growth. First gate hard to open - latch in vegetation		Empire Farm? Throop Farm?	Contact landowner(s) regarding maintenance to the length of their PROW responsibility

Robin Cave

1. Village Hall

The work to weatherproof the unused rear door to the hall are in hand and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The Clerk will update on the replacement of missing tiles on the roof.

2. Recreation Ground Project

Having researched on line I have attached my proposal for a dedication sign for the new path. The sign is supplied complete with 'legs' and fixings. It can be manufactured in die pressed aluminium (£281) or in polycarbonate (£207) A decision is required on the wording and material.

3. Having walked round the rec with the groundsman I recommend that we look at replacing the broken push-along mower with a 95 centimetre wide ride-on, front platform, rear steering, mulching or discharging unit. An example would be a Stiga Park 500 2wd. It is available on line at between £3899 and £4299. This is somewhat more than we budgeted for. I have asked Chris Batchelor to advise on the suitability and availability

Allan Kerry

June 2026 Parish Council Highways and Recreation Ground Project Report

Highways Report

a. The SID report for the last few weeks is attached for your perusal and the device has now been set to the mode which does not display the vehicle speed but still registers it. This can then be compared with the attached report to identify the impact of the SID.
https://abbasandtemplecombe-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/sid-readout.pdf

b. We still need to sort out the brackets to move the SID to either Yew Tree bend or Lionsgate.
c. The Highways LCN attended by Robin and myself resulted in inviting Andy Barron from Highways Traffic Management to identify potential solutions for the Westcombe/Vine Street/West Street/Bowden Road area. Any solution (if found) would need to be funded by the Parish Council.
d. We are also trying to set up a meeting with someone from the Highways Infrastructure team to visit our village to gauge the impact of the additional housing on the area. This will be a much more difficult discussion as it impinges on already taken Planning decisions which did not allow for any road/footpath infrastructure apart from the development access onto existing roads. Any likely traffic survey is likely to be at the Parish Council's expense.
e. The meeting was attended by the Parking Services Officer who informed the meeting that Parking on yellow lines can only be enforced if issues are reported - as usual resources are directed at the worst areas.
f. Currently parking on pavements, restricting footpaths are not yet within the scope of local councils (only London has this ability). Although this will be

extended to include Local Councils in principle the methodology has not been agreed with National Highways.

Recreation Ground Project.

g. The path is complete and feedback from the majority of people has been positive. Do we have any views on the 'Hopscotch' suggestion from a parishioner?
h. I have approached the School with regard to an event to open the path and James Webb, the Executive Head, was enthusiastic he has delegated this to members of the School Staff. I am waiting for a response from them regarding a meeting to discuss further

Sarah Webb

Slades Hill / Knights Meadow Update –June 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
However, no update regarding:

- LEAP opening
- Traffic calming completion
- Public open space maintenance schedule in line with planning consent
- Completion of the planting scheme

The following issues remain and have been reported by a resident to Tilia:
1. Work carried out on the school playing field in mid-April left estate roads covered in mud and debris. The contractor requested permission to bring in road sweepers at the time but this was rejected by Tilia. Following numerous complaints from residents, a road sweeper was finally sent out in early May, but it made little difference as the mud had become ingrained into the tarmac. A further request on 14th May that the road sweeper return, was completely ignored and to date the roads remain a mess.

2. The link path remains unfinished/unsurfaced and is poorly constructed with an obvious variation in the width for no apparent reason and edging only on one side. The correspondence from Kathryn Pennington to Sarah Dyke MP (3 March 2026) advises completion in late spring/early summer.

3. Driveways serving some plots which should have been constructed using permeable materials in accordance with the approved plans and to function alongside the approved drainage scheme still await remedial work. At least one driveway will need to be replaced, as it has sustained damage from construction traffic.
In addition to being constructed using the incorrect surfacing material, the level of the some of these driveways are too high and fail to provide the necessary clearance below the damp proof membrane of the properties.

4. The public open spaces throughout the site are currently in a poor condition and heavily overgrown with weeds. As the development remains under Tilia's responsibility, these areas should be maintained to an acceptable standard. Maintenance activities are also being significantly hindered by the presence of stones and excavation rubble beneath the vegetation. Work involving attempts to mow around the attenuation pond while navigating over hidden large stones presented a clear health and safety risk. The debris should be removed before any further maintenance is undertaken. This issue is far more substantial than can be resolved through a simple 'stone-picking' exercise, as it has previously been described. Appropriate remedial action is required and employees are not placed at unnecessary risk while carrying out maintenance works. The LEAP contains a significant number of large stones/rocks which are a health and safety risk to the young children this area is intended for.

5. Large areas of the development, including the LEAP, were sprayed with weed killer in April. This raises both environmental concerns but also residents should have been informed in advance, especially those in proximity to the areas being sprayed.

6. The orchard area remains unplanted and has also been sprayed with weed killer.

7. Pavements & kerbs damaged by construction vehicles have not been repaired or replaced, despite regular notification to Tilia. A drain cover was repaired but is a mess. There are weeds growing through the pavement surface already.

8. The travel plan, which should have commenced at the start of occupation, has still not been implemented despite repeated assurances from Tilia that it is 'in hand'. It should by now have been operational for more than two years. There is still:

● No appointed Travel Advisor
● No evidence of the allocated £500 budget being used for the required 3–5 annual events and 6-10 events already missed
● No community notice board or signage
● No progress whatsoever from Trace Design, despite Tilia stating in December that Trace Design had been instructed earlier in 2025 and that 'the Travel Packs were due to arrive with residents imminently'.

Residents are entitled to know what has happened to the money saved by Tilla through failing to comply with these obligations

9. Additional unresolved issues include:
• No traffic calming measures on the straight road adjacent to the LEAP; this is a safety risk

- Missing block paving at junctions where it should have been installed. This is for safety at junctions, not aesthetic appeal
- The LEAP was built too high, with a steep slope down towards the pond and road resulting in safety concerns, the loss of privacy for surrounding homes, loss of usable public open space due to the altered levels and fencing around the pond, which was not part of the approved plans. The correspondence of 3 March advises that the LEAP will be completed and open for community use in early Spring - we have just gone into summer
- Repeated fly-tipping of construction waste including wood, rubble, signs and drain covers in hedgerows and trees (these occurrences were notified to Tilia at the time)
- Hedges and trees not being maintained and beginning to die through neglect
- Extremely poor workmanship at times in the building of the houses and in public areas, including uneven, unfastened and askew utility covers and substandard repair works to a main drain cover at the corner of Valley Road
- Mismatched ground surfaces with visible joins between materials
- Failure to comply with the required minimum 3m offset, potentially risking the integrity of the walls of adjoining properties;
- The wildlife corridor is fenced off by a solid fence, rendering it inaccessible to wildlife other than birds.

Planning Report

– Significant Updates Planning Report June 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.
New
Extension to farmhouse Open for comment icon
Mead Farm Temple Lane Templecombe Somerset BA8 0JW
Ref. No: 26/00977/HOU Received: Wed 29 Apr 2026 Validated: Fri 08 May 2026 Status: Awaiting decision

Approved

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
(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)
Ref. No: 26/00606/S73 | Received: Fri 13 Mar 2026 | Validated: Thu 26 Mar 2026 | Status: Approved 12 May subject to conditions

Pending

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

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.

No further update

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.
The Parish Council has requested that this application be referred to Somerset Council's planning committee – This request has been further supported by Councillor Hayward Burt.

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.

Bus Back Better June 2026

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).
Children aged 5 to 15 can travel for free on participating local buses across England throughout August as part of the government’s Great British Summer Savings initiative. The Chancellor is committing more than £100 million to fund the free fares scheme and also continuing to support bus services
Key Fare Details

- There are no limits to the number of children under 5 who travel free with a fare paying adult throughout the year
- . Every child aged five to 15 in England will travel free on participating local buses throughout August – with unlimited journeys, no registration required, and at no cost to families.
- 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:
  - Short Hops: Journeys under 3 miles cost £2.40.
  - Longer Journeys: Max out at £3, aligning with the national cap.
  - 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.

Stephen Hood

Templecombe Together Report

Community Lunch

Templecombe Together has always had super volunteers who monthly help out at the Community Lunch. May's lunch was no exception. I was away on holiday so not availability to set up the Club Hall, buy ingredients for the Lunch, serve food or put away tables and chairs at the conclusion. It didn't matter, willing hands ensured that the lunch was as successful as the others.
Our Summer Lunch will be on the 18th July and we hope to have music provided by Alan Berry and some of his musicians.

Parish Lunches.

Unfortunately the lunches have been stopped for the foreseeable future. The problem appears to be difficulty in recruiting people to help. The same people have been putting on the lunches for a number of years. Many are of a certain age and would like to see a group of

younger residents take on this event. It is proposed to ask through the Messenger, FB and public notices for help.

Men who like to talk.

The monthly sessions are being well attended. At the moment we are getting to know each other as well as sharing some life experiences. As you can imagine, plenty of humour. In July we hope to set a direction for future meetings.

Mums and Toddlers.

Templecombe Together continues to fund the Children's refreshments.

Social Club

Ed and myself attended the Monthly Social Club Committee meeting.

Finances are in good shape with recent events proving successful, particularly at the bar. A surplus was made both in April and May.

Discussion took place re future bookings. A new Booking Form is being refined to help simplify for users and staff.

There remains an issue with having sufficient bar staff. All are volunteers at the moment and therefore do not have set days, which has caused some shortages, it is proposed to have some paid bar staff particularly for the weekends.

The toilets need refurbishment to the tune of £20,000. Jenny is seeking funding.

It is hoped to redecorate the bar area in the near future. This would mainly involve painting and the club are exploring the possibility that volunteers would take on the job.

There are now 136 members.