

July 2019, Issue 38

Welcome to the July issue of the Town and Parish Digest. We produce the digest every two months to help keep you up-to-date with what's happening across the council.

The Town and Parish Digest is put together by the Policy and Transformation team to communicate key messages to towns and parishes and to keep you informed on issues. It also signposts you to where further information can be found.

If you have a contribution you would like to make or any comments on the bulletin please contact [Rhiannon Jones](#), Policy and Partnerships Development Officer, 01934 884 204.

Contents

New Blue Badge online application process
#Your30MinutesYourWay
Promote local Physical Activity sessions
The Woodland Trust
Community Emergency Shelter
Planning an Event ?
Heading out on the highway this summer?
Current and upcoming consultations
Meetings, Events and Notices
Training, Grants and Bidding opportunities – **new**

New Blue Badge online application process

The Department for Transport have been working with local authorities and citizens over the last year to create an improved online process for Blue Badge applications. The new process is greatly improved and provides upfront guidance on how to apply and how to upload documents and photos. Customers can now pay on line and will receive an automated acknowledgment once their application and payment has been submitted.

The new system has already resulted in reduced application processing times, meaning customers can get their badge quicker and the Blue Badge team have seen a dramatic decrease in the number of paper applications coming in and the number of telephone enquiries they are dealing with.

Staff in libraries and in the Town Hall and Castlewood gateways are trained to assist customers with their online applications.

The new application form can be found on [North Somerset Council's website](#)

#Your30MinutesYourWay

This week we launched our new campaign #Your30MinutesYourWay and we'd really appreciate your help in spreading the word.

The aim is simple. We want to encourage adults across North Somerset to be more active. Recent statistics show that approximately one fifth of our adult population are classed as 'inactive' meaning they do less than 30 minutes a week of physical activity – well below Public Health England's recommended 150 minutes a week.

We're asking people to pledge to try and be active for at least 30 minutes each day. And we want to show that it doesn't need to cost a penny. 'Activity' is anything that gets your heart beating a bit faster but where you could still have a conversation with someone. Jogging, brisk walking, dancing, gardening all count. And the 30 minutes don't need to be in one go. You could break it into two lots of 15 or even three lots of 10 minutes.

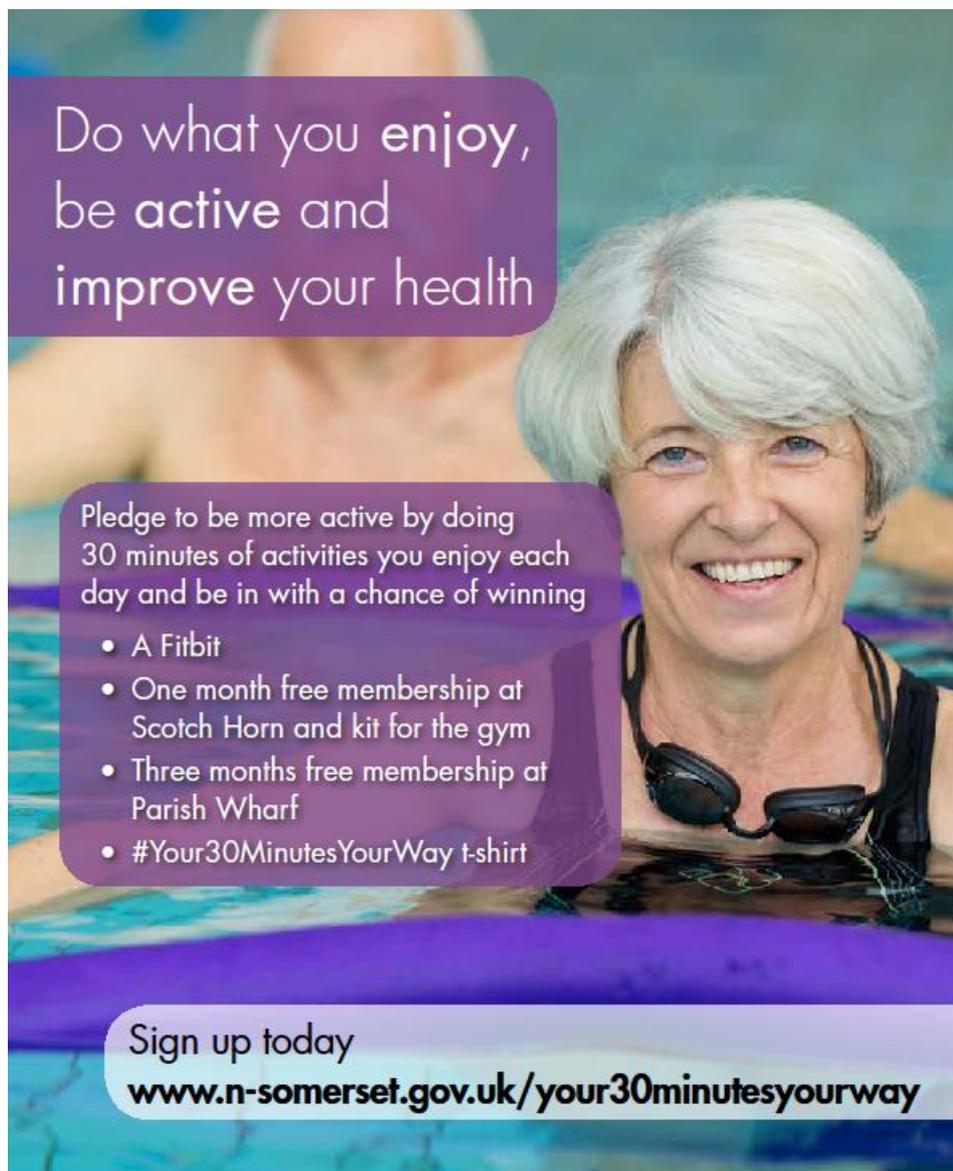
We have launched an [online pledge form](#) that we are asking residents to complete and as an extra incentive everyone who makes a pledge and signs up will be entered into a prize draw to win one of our fab prizes including a Fitbit, gym membership, t-shirts and more.

People can sign up at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/your30minutesyourway.

If you're on Facebook please do follow our [Go4Life page](#) and share our #Your30MinutesYourWay messages. We're also encouraging people to share their progress and stories on social media using #Your30MinutesYourWay – it'd be great to see some of your stories too!



We have mainly been promoting this initiative through our [facebook page – Go4LifeNS](#), so any help sharing and promoting posts would be appreciated. And please display posters in the local area to encourage individuals to pledge. If you would like hard copy posters sent to you, please contact [Catherine Devonshire](#).



Do what you enjoy,
be active and
improve your health

Pledge to be more active by doing
30 minutes of activities you enjoy each
day and be in with a chance of winning

- A Fitbit
- One month free membership at
Scotch Horn and kit for the gym
- Three months free membership at
Parish Wharf
- #Your30MinutesYourWay t-shirt

Sign up today
www.n-somerset.gov.uk/your30minutesyourway

#Your30
Minutes
YourWay



Go4Life

North
Somerset
COUNCIL

29086 0719

Promote local Physical Activity sessions

Sport and physical activity instructors in North Somerset are being given the opportunity to promote their activities for free!

North Somerset Council's Sports and Active Lifestyles team is producing its seventh edition of its Active Directory. Entry in the directory is free.

It would be great to have as many local activities as possible in the new online Active Directory, so please display the attached poster in local venues to encourage instructors to submit their sessions.

Instructors can visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/activedirectory where they can download and complete a short form. The closing date for entries is Friday 20 September 2019.

The Active Directory will be published this autumn and will be available online as well as in most libraries, leisure centres and GP surgeries.

If you would like hard copy posters sent to you, please contact [Catherine Devonshire](mailto:Catherine.Devonshire@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Promote your Local Physical Activity Sessions

Active Directory

A guide to physical activities and healthy living in North Somerset



Promote local sport, exercise and physical activities in the new online Active Directory. Advertise for free.

Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/activedirectory to download a form.

**Submit by Fri 20
September 2019**



The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust has contacted North Somerset Council offering support and advice in tackling climate change and strengthening the council's commitments around greenhouse gas emissions.

The Woodland Trust can help in a number of ways including:

- ❖ Expert policy advisors who can assist with strengthening local plans and relevant strategies to deliver the most for woods and trees;
- ❖ A planners' manual, full of examples for how to protect and deliver best practice for ancient woods and veteran trees in your area;
- ❖ Guidance on incorporating trees into new developments;
- ❖ Outreach advisors, able to help provide a tailored plan for woodland restoration and tree planting across your area;
- ❖ An urban programme, through which they work with local authorities to provide bespoke tree planting solutions, in particular for urban street trees;
- ❖ Tree health advisors are able to offer guidance and supply the latest thinking on how to best deal with pests and diseases such as ash dieback.

Any town and parish councils that would like more information please visit the [Woodland Trust website](#) to see how they could help your area.



Community Emergency Shelter

A joint project between the council's Emergency Management Unit and Community Safety has just launched; the goal is to update the Council's list of community venues that residents can access for leisure purposes alongside those that could be utilised in the event of an emergency requiring residents to be sheltered temporarily.

Venue owners/managers are encouraged to register [online](#), by doing so, their premise will be searchable for leisure and as part of the Community Emergency Shelter Scheme to encourage residents to think about where they might go in the event of an evacuation. Venues will be asked to display a scheme sticker and provide emergency contact details, but are under no obligation to open should they not be able to.

How Can You Help? - Do you have connections to any local community buildings, such as a village or church hall and can encourage them to [register](#)?

Do you know how your local community can be prepared for an emergency, or want to find out more? Visit the [Community Resilience North Somerset website](#) or call 01934 426322.

For more information visit the [Safer Stronger North Somerset webpages](#).

Planning an Event ?

Are you planning to hold events within the Parish, or know of local organisations that are?

Do the events require road closures under the Town Police Clause Act (TPCA) or include a licensable activity? Did you know that a TCPA takes 12 weeks to process and you could with planning coordinate one order per Parish to cover numerous events; some licenses take up to 28 days to be issued; and all events require Public Liability Insurance and a robust Risk Assessment?

Are you planning to hold a Remembrance Day parade in November? These events and any associated road closures also require 12 weeks notice.

North Somerset Council Seafront and Events team are happy to discuss event planning with you and to offer guidance as to what you are required to submit and when for road closures and licensing. We are especially keen to begin early discussions around Bonfire night, Remembrance Weekend, Christmas Markets and Christmas Light Switch-on events with you to avoid last minute problems and interventions.

Please email events@n-somerset.gov.uk and an officer will get back to you.

Heading out on the highway this summer?

Help parishioners check roads and routes before they head out on summer trips by using and promoting the interactive map on North Somerset Council's website.

Summer months can see some of the highest volumes of traffic on North Somerset's roads as people make the most of longer days and sunnier weather.

Drivers and other road users can use the interactive map – at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/roadworks – to see information about current and planned roadworks affecting the main roads in North Somerset.

See where works are taking place, who is responsible for them and how long they are expected to last.

The map can also be customized to show public events, traffic flow, incidents and public transport information.

Regular email alerts can be set up for specific areas you are interested in.

Information about roadworks can also be shared through Facebook and Twitter, so you can help friends and family stay up-to-date with what's happening on the roads in the area.

The map is mobile-friendly so you can use it on your smartphone or tablet while you're out and about too.

It is run by mapping system Elgin, which uses data from local highways authorities across the country as well as Highways England and Google's live traffic feed.

As a result, roadworks, traffic restrictions, road closures, diversions, public events and incidents can all be viewed and users can find out more about specific works or incidents by clicking or tapping on the map.

This means that people can find what they're looking for quickly and easily, saving the council money by reducing the number of telephone enquiries it receives, which in turn allows the council's limited resources to be used more efficiently.

Highways officers in North Somerset Council also use the same mapping system to plan ahead. It is one of the tools the highways department uses to help coordinate roadworks, which minimises disruption to road users and reduces congestion.

Developers, individuals or other private organisations who want to dig up the public highway also have to apply to the council for a special Section 50 licence.

When an application is approved, the council's streetworks team make sure the relevant information is updated in the electronic system, which in turn is published automatically on the map.

For more information visit the [North Somerset roadworks map](#).

Current and upcoming consultation

[Draft Shopfront Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) - July 2019](#)

[Street Trading Policy 2019 - 2024](#)

[Street Cafe Policy 2019 - 2024](#)

[Film Classification Policy 2019](#)

Meetings, Events and Notices

Town and parish changes

It is important that parishes keep the council up to date with any changes to their information. This includes contact details for the Clerk, the Chair and parish bank accounts.

We are inviting parishes to check their information on our public website to ensure it is correct and reflects any changes following recent parish elections. Parishes can check their information using the link below:

<http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-council/councillors/townandparish/town-and-parish-contacts/>

Please contact [Rhiannon Jones](#) to update any information or if you have changes to the parish bank accounts please contact the [Accounts team](#) directly.

Training, Grants and Bidding opportunities – new

Space to Connect Fund launched –new £1.6 million partnership with the Co-op Foundation

The Office for Civil Society has launched the [Space to Connect Fund](#), our £1.6 million partnership with the Co-op Foundation to help community organisations identify, improve and protect spaces where people can connect and co-operate. This Fund builds on the Government's commitment to unlock the potential of community spaces as part of its Loneliness Strategy.

The Fund is now open for applications, with grants of up to £50,000 available across England. The [invitation to tender](#) is also now open to become our 'Space to Connect' Evaluation and Learning partner. Up to £160,000, including VAT, is available and they aim for the contract to start in October 2019 and run until June 2021.

The closing date for tender responses is **midday on Friday 30 August 2019**.

For more information visit the [Co-op Space to Connect website](#)

My Community Web Site

For information, inspiration, resources, grants, community network and advice, please see [link](#).

Big Lottery Funding

Current and ongoing programmes include: [Digital Fund](#), [Reaching Communities Fund](#), [Awards for All](#). More information can be found on the [Big Lottery](#) website.

KEEP US ALL MOVING

How to drive safely on England's motorways





**DON'T
IGNORE
THE RED X**

Never drive in a lane closed by a Red X.
It indicates that the lane is closed to traffic.

You must move out of that lane as there may
be an incident or people working ahead.

A Red X can be displayed on gantry signs
above each lane or on large signs above
the side of the carriageway.

Any of the lanes can be closed by a Red X
and arrows indicate the available lanes.

It's illegal to drive in a lane closed by a
Red X sign. If you're caught, the police can
issue you with a fixed £100 penalty and
three points and, in some cases, more
severe penalties or a court appearance.



**VARIABLE
SPEED,
STEADY,
PROGRESS**

60

Variable speed limits often appear lit up on overhead signs, displayed within a red circle.

These help steady the flow of traffic and reduce 'stop-start' traffic jams on certain sections of motorway.

They can be set at busy times, or because of a hazard or incident.

As well as the police, speed cameras are in operation on our motorways, for enforcing speeding offences. And if you go over the speed limits, you're breaking the law and could receive a fine.



Keeping left helps the traffic flow and avoids frustration with lane-hoggers, so we all have a safer, smoother journey.

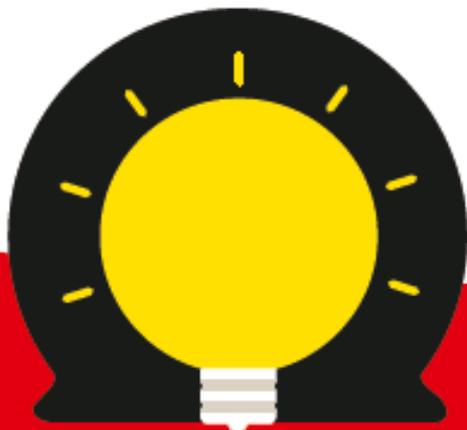
You should keep left unless you're overtaking. And you should always drive in the left-hand lane when the road ahead is clear.

If you are overtaking a number of slower-moving vehicles, you should always return to the left-hand lane as soon as you are safely past.

Slow-moving or speed-restricted vehicles should always remain in the left-hand lane of the carriageway unless overtaking too.

**KEEPING
LEFT
IS RIGHT**

WISE UP TO BREAKING DOWN



Knowing what to do in an emergency or a breakdown is the key to keeping yourself and others safe. Most breakdowns are avoidable and simple vehicle checks can help you have a safer journey. Check your tyres, fuel, oil and water.

If your car appears to have problems:

1. Exit the motorway or get to an emergency area or hard shoulder and use the free phone provided.
2. If that's not possible, move left onto the verge.
3. Get out of the left side of your car and behind the barrier if you can and it is safe to do so.
4. Get help – contact your breakdown provider or Highways England on 0300 123 5000.
5. If you break down in moving traffic and cannot leave your car, keep your seatbelt and hazard lights on and call 999.



Whatever part of England's motorway network you're using, we want you to stay safe, follow the signs and keep us all moving. England's motorways connect people to families and friends, workers to jobs and businesses to their customers, which helps our nation thrive.

To find this document on our website, and to find out more, visit [highwaysengland.co.uk/motorways](https://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/motorways)

For an accessible version of this publication please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.



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