

Dear all,

I hope this finds you well and settling into autumn – as I write, the rain is pouring down and summer already feels a long way behind us. Here are the latest updates on local services and news for our community.

P1 Bus – Use It or Lose It

By now, you should have received the new P1 leaflet and timetable. The route is still on its 18-month trial, running until March 2026. Usage so far has been encouraging – especially the early morning service – but we need more residents to get on board. Quite simply: if we don't use it, we'll lose it.

This would be a real setback, especially as 2026/27 will bring a year of major roadworks on the A38. Having a bus that avoids the jams will be a huge benefit. The P1 also provides vital links for commuters and collects children from Backwell School mid-afternoon. If you haven't yet tried it, please do so this autumn and through the winter. The more passengers we have, the stronger our case to keep the service long-term.

Recycling – Your Efforts Are Paying Off

The new black bin and recycling collections are already making a difference: black bin waste is down 20%, recycling is up 10%, food waste collection has risen 12%, and there has been a big rise in cardboard recycling. This is a great start and shows what can be achieved with a little goodwill – so thank you for your efforts.

Some residents have found that the larger red recycling bags, introduced this summer, are fading and splitting. Other councils using the same batch have had the same problem. As the smaller trial bags remain in excellent condition, we believe this batch is faulty and are now in discussions with the supplier.

Recycling Centres – Book Your Slot

From this autumn, our recycling centres will move to a booking system. You'll be able to pick a time that suits you and avoid queues. Similar systems in Bristol, B&NES, South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire have proved popular, reducing wasted trips and allowing staff to focus on helping with recycling rather than managing traffic. It will also avoid people from outside our district tipping at our sites – and costing us money!

The new system will first be introduced in Weston-super-Mare, with Backwell and Portishead to follow later this year. Booking is simple and can be done online at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/recyclingcentres or by phone for those not using the internet or the North Somerset app.

Thank you all for your continued support. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes,

Annemieke

Annemieke Waite, Councillor Newsletter, October 2025

Email: Annemieke.waite@n-somerset.gov.uk

Phone: 07385-010134