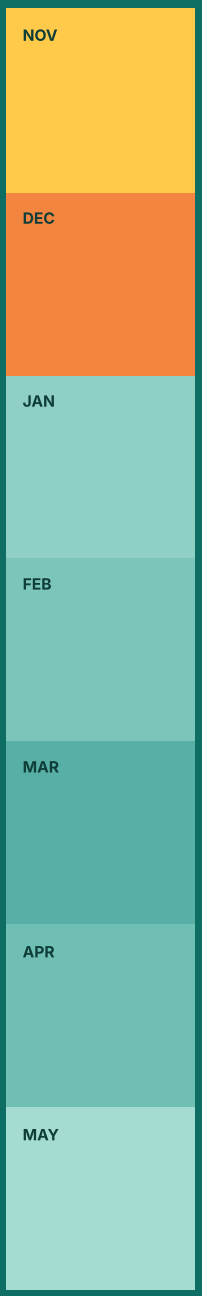
SOMERSET

My Community Resilience Action Calendar

2026 to 2027

What you can do, and what we can do together, to adapt to a changing climate and prepare for emergencies.



FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES

Compiled by Claire Sully

Version 2.2, 30 October 2026

One thing to do per entry, most under ten minutes. Start with the Now section, and let's make a difference together.

At a glance (full details below this table)

Now to summer 2027.

This table is a quick summary. Full details, links and contacts for each item are on the pages that follow, with the page number in the right-hand column.

When	What	Your action
Now	**Be Ready.** New government campaign: be ready for three days of disruption	Share the checklist with households **Details p.4**
Fri 4 Dec	**LNRS Community Seed Fund.** Grants up to £10,000 for community nature recovery projects	Apply by 4 Dec **Details p.5**
Thu 3 Dec	**Trees and nature: Derek v Derek.** Film screening and Q&A, the Seed Factory, Aller, 6.30pm	Book a ticket and share **Details p.6**
Any time	**Trees and nature: Carbon Aware People.** Fund woodland and peat restoration from £5 a month	Share with anyone keen on nature restoration **Details p.6**
Any time	**Trees and nature: Croscombe Area Wilding.** New local nature restoration group, events being planned	Get in touch to get involved: helen.lawson.consultant@gmail.com **Details p.6**
Now	**Disposable barbecues.** New statutory guidelines, 14 August. Not to be sold	Alert any local retailer still selling them. **Details p.3**
Now	Community Risk Register 2026, newly published	Share the link, details below **Details p.3**
Now	**Home Emergency Plan.** Now available as a PDF	Share with households **Details p.3**
Now	**Rural Active Travel Toolkit.** New guide for community-led walking, wheeling and cycling routes	Share with parishes. Details and free training in the Now section **Details p.5**
Quarterly	**Somerset Prepared small grant.** Quarterly deadline. Up to £5,000	Alert parishes and flood groups **Details p.4**
November	Winter weather readiness	Are your parishes ready? **Details p.5**
Tue 24 Nov	**Community Flood Action Fund.** Next deadline, then 23 Feb 2027	Get it on an autumn agenda **Details p.4**
Spring 2027	Cool spaces and heatwave planning	Forward look, not yet live
July 2027	“Love Your River” month	In development. More to follow **Details p.7**

Now!

Be Ready, survey, barbecues, emergency plans, funding, active travel

PARISH PREPAREDNESS SURVEY

Has your parish completed it?

The survey asks each council to score thirteen hazards, then covers people, plans, equipment and communications. It is a paper form, so it needs emailing out to clerks.

Without it, emergency planning cannot tell whether a parish has a plan, a co-ordinator, a Place of Safety or a phone signal. No response is not the same as no risk.

YOUR ACTION

1. Check whether your parishes have already completed the Parish Preparedness Survey. Ask the clerk.
2. If not, request the survey from somersetprepared@somerset.gov.uk.
3. Email it to the clerk and ask for it to go on the agenda of their next meeting.

Disposable barbecues

Since 14 August, Government statutory guidelines say disposable barbecues should not be sold, in store or online, while the fire risk remains. Trading Standards can enforce this, and the guidelines will be withdrawn once the weather reduces the risk.

YOUR ACTION

If a shop, garage or campsite in your division is still selling them, politely point them to the GOV.UK guidelines.

Statutory guidelines on disposable barbecues: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-guidelines-on-disposable-bbqs

Community Risk Register 2026

Reissued in July by the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum. It covers eight risks: flooding, extreme weather, animal disease, infectious disease, transport incidents, industrial accidents, utility failure, and malicious threats including cyber crime. Short, plain and readable.

YOUR ACTION

Share the link. Ask parishes to spend ten minutes on it at a meeting and answer one question: which two of these eight apply most to us?

Community Risk Register 2026: https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/BD17061-Community-Risk-Register-JULY2026.pdf

Home Emergency Plan, now as a PDF

Somerset Prepared's Home Emergency Plan is now available as a PDF, following requests. It is a simple written plan to help a household prepare for, respond to and recover from severe weather, flooding or a power cut. It covers important phone numbers, where to turn off gas, water and electricity, anyone in the home who needs extra help, and where to meet if you have to leave.

YOUR ACTION

Share the link in parish newsletters and on noticeboards. It pairs well with the winter readiness push in November.

Home Emergency Plan (PDF): https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/home-emergency-plan-in-pdf-format/

Be Ready: the government's new emergency preparedness campaign

On 22 October 2026 the Cabinet Office launched the first stage of Be Ready, a three-year campaign encouraging households to take small, simple steps to prepare for temporary disruption to power, water, phone and internet, often caused by severe weather. The advice is to be ready for three days of disruption, the benchmark also used in France, Ireland and the Netherlands: keep a small supply of non-perishable food and bottled water at home, and sign up to the free Priority Services Register so utility companies know who may need extra help. Many of the steps are free or low-cost, and if those who can prepare do so, emergency services can prioritise the people who need most help. More than 500 organisations, including charities and businesses, are sharing the messages, with families with young children and older people a particular focus.

The Be Ready website (in English and Welsh) gathers the advice in one place: a downloadable Be Ready checklist for three days of supplies, ways to play your part by volunteering and supporting your community, information on hazards, a route to check eligibility for the Priority Services Register, and links to Met Office weather warnings. It does not give live updates during an emergency, and in immediate danger you should always call 999.

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Share the Be Ready checklist in parish newsletters and on noticeboards, alongside the Home Emergency Plan.
>
> GOV.UK announcement: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/households-encouraged-to-take-small-simple-steps-to-stay-prepared-in-an-emergency
>
> Be Ready: https://beready.campaign.gov.uk/

Community Flood Action Fund

The Somerset Rivers Authority runs a small grants fund for works that reduce flooding in Somerset. Grants of between £3,000 and £20,000 may be awarded, and a total of £520,000 has been approved by the SRA Board since its launch in November 2024.

Deadlines run on a rolling three-monthly basis, four times a year, so the next one is Tuesday 24 November 2026, followed by Tuesday 23 February 2027. The Somerset Prepared small grant scheme is a separate fund on separate quarterly dates, set out below.

Pre-application advice is available from the SRA team. Email sra@somerset.gov.uk or telephone 01823 355111, for attention of: Caroline Dunn.

Appendix A lists the schemes approved by the fund so far, so you can check which projects have been successful and show a parish what a fundable scheme looks like.

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Tell any parish with a known flooding problem about the fund this week. The next deadline is Tuesday 24 November, which means getting it onto a November agenda now.
>
> Appendix A lists the schemes already approved, which is the quickest way to show a parish the sort of work that gets funded.
>
> SRA Community Flood Action Fund grants: https://www.somersetriversauthority.org.uk/grants/

Somerset Prepared small grant scheme

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to town and parish councils and to flood groups, for equipment and training that improves resilience to emergencies. Applications are considered quarterly. The fund can cover: signage, sandbag stores, radios, generators, defibrillator cabinets, first aid or flood warden training.

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Tell your parishes and any flood group in your area. Equipment and training bids need a decision at a Parish meeting.
>
> Somerset Prepared funding support: https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/get-support/funding-support/

Somerset Rural Active Travel Toolkit

New from Somerset Council. A step-by-step guide for parish and town councils, community groups and landowners who want safer local routes for walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding. It covers shaping an idea, building evidence, funding, route design, consents, and delivery and maintenance. Free training sessions on each section are available.

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Share it with any parish that has talked about a footpath, a safer route to school or a link to the next village. Contact the transport policy team early if a scheme would affect the highway or a public right of way: transportpolicy@somerset.gov.uk.
>
> Rural Active Travel Toolkit: https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/somerset-rural-active-travel-toolkit/

November

Winter preparedness, nature recovery fund

Getting households ready before the weather arrives, not during it. Tinned food and bottled water, a working torch, a wind-up or battery radio, blankets, an alternative means of heating, and a plan for pets.

Priority Services Register. Utility companies must offer priority support to people of pensionable age, with a disability, or in long-term ill health. You have to opt in personally. It is not automatic.

Questions to put to a parish directly:

- Where is your place of safety in a power cut? Has the village hall got a generator?
- Who is vulnerable, and who would check on them?
- Where would the council meet, and what are your first three actions?

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Put winter preparedness on parish agendas in November. Push the Priority Services Register.
>
> Review the Key Winter Preparedness Recommendations on the Somerset Prepared website, then share the link with parishes and households.
>
> Somerset Prepared, winter weather advice: https://www.somersetprepared.org.uk/hazard-advice/severe-weather/winter-weather/

LNRS Community Seed Fund: apply by Friday 4 December

Somerset Council's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Community Seed Fund offers grants of up to £10,000 for Somerset projects that help nature recover and bring clear community benefit: creating or restoring habitats, helping priority species, connecting wildlife areas, or surveys and feasibility studies. Parish, town and city councils, community groups, charities, CICs, schools, farmers, landowners and estates can apply.

> **YOUR ACTION**
>
> Tell parishes and community groups now, so bids can be ready by 4 December. Read the guidance first; pre-application advice from LNRS@somerset.gov.uk.
>
> Application form and guidance: https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/climate-and-environment/lnrs-community-seed-fund-application-form/
>
> Council news release: https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/new-community-fund-launches-to-help-nature-recover-across-somerset/

December

Trees and nature

> **From the team behind the Somerset Conference of the Trees.**
>
> Following the Somerset Conference of the Trees on Friday 12 June 2026, its organisers are gathering and sharing tree and nature events and opportunities, with more to come in the coming months. First up are these two: a film screening in December, and a way to support nature restoration all year round.

1. Derek v Derek, the Seed Factory, Aller, Thursday 3 December

A screening of the new feature documentary *Derek v Derek*, which follows a "humorous and compelling neighbourly feud between two Devon farmers with completely opposing visions for the English countryside". At the Seed Factory, Aller, Somerset, 6.30pm, followed by a Q&A on the issues it raises.

> YOUR ACTION
>
> Book a ticket and share with farmers, landowners and anyone interested in the future of the countryside.

2. Carbon Aware People

For anyone who wants to get more involved in nature restoration, Carbon Aware People is a small Somerset-run company that lets individuals and businesses collectively fund woodland and peat restoration projects across the UK from £5 a month. Subscribers are invited to planting days, wildlife surveys and tree events, and get filmed updates from the projects they help fund.

"Climate action can sometimes feel daunting, but the concept behind Carbon Aware People is so simple and accessible it only feels good. It's a brilliant way to turn a few pounds each month into thriving woodlands, healthier landscapes and a lasting legacy for future generations. Impossible not to feel optimistic about that!" Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall

> YOUR ACTION
>
> Have a look, and share with anyone in your community keen to support tree planting and nature restoration.
>
> Carbon Aware People: www.carbonawarepeople.co.uk

Croscombe Area Wilding

Croscombe Area Wilding (CAW) is a new local group helping to restore nature around Croscombe. Events are being planned.

> YOUR ACTION
>
> If you would like to get involved, get in touch: helen.lawson.consultant@gmail.com

Spring 2027

Forward look

> **“Love Your River” month, July 2027.**
>
> This revives something DEFRA ran some years ago. The idea is simply to improve people’s awareness, appreciation and care of their local watercourses, which will help with flooding and resilience conversations further down the line.
>
> In development at the moment: family-friendly resources for being by the river, a poetry, prose and art competition, and activities aimed particularly at Year 6 students, who always need their time filled once SATs have finished.
>
> **More information to follow.**

Appendix A

Schemes approved by the Community Flood Action Fund, taken from the Somerset Rivers Authority grant status record. Twenty-one schemes are listed, ranging from ditch and culvert clearance to desilting, pumps and river maintenance.

Members can check here which projects have been successful. If a parish is unsure whether its problem is fundable, the nearest match on this list is usually the answer.

Applicant	Scheme	Works dates
Cotford St Luke PC	Desilting and vegetation clearance of the attenuation pond, tree maintenance adjacent to the ponds	Completed
Creech St Michael PC	Diesel pump	Completed
Long Sutton PC	Install drainage pipe (Parrett: Yeo Isle)	Completed
Stoke St Mary PC	Ditch and culvert maintenance and widening of existing drainage channels	Completed
West Buckland PC	Desilting, vegetation clearance and maintenance in the watercourses off and adjacent to Asham Lane	Completed
West Camel PC	River maintenance work at Higher Mill	May to Oct 2026
West Monkton PC	Vegetation clearance and ditch maintenance, including gully clearance at Blundells Lane	Completed
Ruishton and Thornfalcon PC	Ditch clearance	Completed
Baltonsborough PC	Weed clearing and flailing in Coxbridge Brook	Completed
Croscombe PC	New access chamber on a culvert in Long Street	Oct 2026
Godney PC	Partial desilt along the Decoy Rhyne (north bank only) and a section of the St James Weir River	Completed
Norton Fitzwarren PC	Programme of maintenance works in Norton Brook and Halse Water	Aug to Sep 2026
Carhampton PC	Desilting of two culverts, Eastbury Hill and the A39	Sep 2026
Isle Abbotts PC	Desilting and restoration of 90m of ditch	Sep 2026
Ruishton and Thornfalcon PC	Desilting of pond	Completed
Aller PC	Tree maintenance and ditch clearance	Completed
Shepton Beauchamp PC	Jetting of drains feeding into culvert	Oct 2026
West Buckland PC	Desilting, vegetation clearance and maintenance in the watercourses off and adjacent to Asham Lane	Aug 2026
Ilminster TC	Clearance of blocked culvert	Sep 2026
Queen Camel PC	Culvert clearance and removal of silt, Henshallbrook along Sutton Montis Lane	Sep 2026
Yeo Rivers Community Trust	Vegetation clearance, Upper River Cam	Sep 2026

My Community Resilience Action Calendar, Somerset, for individuals and communities, 2026 to 2027. Version 2.2, 30 October 2026.

Compiled by Claire Sully.

Disclaimer

This calendar has been compiled from publicly available information and is provided for general information only. Details were believed to be correct at the time of publication (30 October 2026), but dates, deadlines, links and other information may be updated or changed by the organisations concerned. Please check the original source, or contact the event organiser, before acting on anything in this calendar. No responsibility can be accepted for errors, omissions or subsequent changes.