Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard. TA20 1PP
01460 239567 chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates
Chief Executive & Town Clerk David Bell

MINUTES

Chard Town Extraordinary **Full Council** meeting held in Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 30th April 2026** commencing at 19:00.

Councillors Present: Councillors: Baker (Part), Bates, Bulmer, Crook, Eggins, Hassan, A Kenton, J Kenton, O'Brien, Richter, Tribble, Watson & Williams

Officers Present:
Chief Executive & Town Clerk, David Bell and Operations Manager Kevin Dyer

Public Participation
Two members of the public spoke.

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/65 **Apologies for Absence**
Council received and accepted apologies from the following Councillors: Hussey and Shortland

2026/66 **Declarations of Interest**
The following Cllrs made declarations:

- Cllr Baker in respect to agenda item 2026/70

2026/67 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**
No minutes were provided for this meeting

Section 2 Confidential Items For Decision

2026/68 **To resolve to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as certain items may include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act**

Proposed: Councillor Tribble Seconded: Councillor Watson
Unanimous

Draft

Resolved: For council to exclude the press and public in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 197 as agenda items 2026/69 & 70 will include the consideration of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act

2026/69 Recruitment of Town Clerk Position

Council considered the report and recommendations from the Recruitment Panel.

Proposed: Councillor J Kenton Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: To recruit the recommended candidate as the new Town Clerk with a start date of 5th July subject to successful references and to give delegated authority to the Chair of the HR Committee and the Mayor to agree an extension of contract for the existing Chief Executive and Town Clerk to run to 5th July 2026 inclusive.

Cllr Baker left the meeting

2026/70 Outstanding Complaints

Council considered the presentation and report given by the Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Proposed: Councillor Watson Seconded: Councillor Bulmer
For: 10 Abstain: 2

Resolved: To fully uphold the complaint made by an Officer in respect of the Council Corporate and to partially uphold the complaint by a Councillor in respect to an Officer.

2026/71 Date Of Next Meeting

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 18th May 2026. To be held at The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 7pm

There being no other business, The Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting at 20.26 p.m.

Date: **Signed:**

Draft

Chard Town Council

The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard. TA20 1PP
01460 239567 chard.gov.uk
Mayor: Cllr Victoria Bates 2025/26 Cllr Tricia O'Brien 2026/27
Chief Executive & Town Clerk: David Bell

MINUTES

Chard Town Council Annual Council Meeting held in Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard, TA20 1PP on **Monday 18th May 2026** commencing at 19:00.

Councillors Present: Cllr Baker, Cllr Bates, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Hussey, Cllr A Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Richter, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Tribble, Cllr Williams.

Officers Present:
David Bell (Chief Executive & Town Clerk), Tim Bickham (Events Officer)

Public Participation
26 members of the public attended

Report from Outgoing Mayor
The Mayor reflected on the previous two years, acknowledging the support of her Mace Bearer and Town Crier. She also commented on the funds raised for her charities – the Scouting Movement and Newsline Chard & Ilminster – which she was pleased to be able to support.

2026/72 Election of Mayor for 2026/27
Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr V Bates
For: 12 Abstain: 0
Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to appoint Cllr O'Brien as Mayor for 2026/27

2026/73 The Mayor made the following appointments
The Mayor announced her Consorts as David O'Brien and her daughter, Paige.

2026/74 Mayor's Announcements
The Mayor announced she will be supporting The Hive Young People's Centre and Chard Men's Shed as her charities.
A discussion with a Chaplin is to follow at a later date.

2026/75 Election of Deputy Mayor
Proposed: Cllr O'Brien Seconded: Cllr Baker
For: 12 Abstain: 0
Unanimous
Resolved: For Council to appoint Cllr Hussey as Deputy Mayor for 2026/27

Draft

Section 1 Standing Items:

2026/76 **Apologies for Absence**

Council received apologies from the following Councillors: Cllr Crook, Cllr Watson and Cllr Hassan.

Unanimous

Resolved: For Council to accept the apologies received.

2026/77 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made

2026/78 **Full Council Meeting Minutes**

Council noted the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting 2025.

Section 3 – Items For Decision

2026/79 **Standing Committees and Sub Committees – Committee Structure**

To consider and adopt a committee structure in accordance with Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation:

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Baker
For: 12 Abstain: 0
Unanimous

Resolved: To adopt a committee structure in accordance with Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation and further review after start of the new Town Clerk.

2026/80 **Appointment of Members to Standing Committees in the Agreed Structure**

To appoint the following Members to the Committees as shown below:

- Finance & Audit Committee (minimum of 4 Councillors);
  Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Tribble, Cllr Baker, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kenton, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Eggins
- Amenities and Events Committee (minimum of 5 Councillors);
  Cllr Richter, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Tribble, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Bates, Cllr Shortland, Cllr Baker, Cllr Kenton, Cllr J Kenton
- HR Committee (maximum of 5 Councillors);
  Cllr Richter, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Shortland, Cllr J Kenton, Cllr Bates,
- Planning & Highways Committee (minimum of 5 Councillors);
  Cllr Richter, Cllr Bulmer, Cllr Eggins, Cllr Tribble, Cllr Bates
- Appeals Committee (minimum of 4 Councillors):
  Cllr Baker, Cllr Williams, Cllr Kenton, Cllr Eggins

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Baker

Draft

Unanimous

Resolved: To appoint the above Councillors to the listed Committees.

2026/81 Appointment of Chairs to Standing Committees in the Agreed Structure

- Finance & Audit Committee; Cllr Williams
- Amenities and Events Committee; Cllr Baker
- HR Committee; Cllr Bates
- Planning & Highways Committee; Cllr Bulmer
- Appeals Committee; Cllr Williams

Proposed: Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Baker
Unanimous

Resolved: To appoint the Chairs to the agreed Committees.

2026/82 Appointment of Vice Chairs to Standing Committees in The Agreed Structure

- Finance & Audit Committee; Cllr A Kenton
- Amenities and Events Committee; Cllr Shortland
- HR Committee; Cllr J Kenton
- Planning & Highways Committee; Cllr Eggins
- Appeals Committee; Cllr Baker

Proposed: Cllr Eggins Seconded: Cllr Bates
Unanimous

Resolved: To appoint the Vice-Chairs to the listed Committees.

2026/83 Appointment of New Committees
To consider whether any new Committees need to be to set up to carry out Council business.

It was suggested that no new committees should be considered at this point on account of a new Clerk commencing post in July and settling in to the role.
A question was asked with regard to the setup of the Grants subcommittee and how members are appointed. The Clerk confirmed this to be appointed by Finance and Audit Committee and taken back to Full Council.

Proposed: Cllr Baker Seconded: Cllr Williams

Draft

Unanimous

Resolved: To operate the existing structure pending review by the new Town Clerk and Full Council in due course.

2026/84 Representatives on External Bodies

To review Council representation on or work with external bodies, including number of representatives, and to agree arrangements/frequency for reporting back:

Organisation	2025/26	2026/27
Chard Museum	Councillors: Hassan & J. Kenton	Cllr J Kenton
Somerset Association of Local Councils	Cllr Bates	Cllr O'Brien
Town Team	Councillors: A Kenton & Hassan	Withdrawn
Clare House	Councillor O'Brien	Cllr Shortland
Allotment Association Forum	Councillors Baker & Hassan	Cllr Baker, Cllr Eggins
Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG)	Councillor Hussey	Cllr Hussey, Cllr Eggins
Youth Council	Councillors: Baker, Hussey & Richter	Cllr Baker, Cllr Hussey, Cllr Richter, Cllr Tribble
The Hive, Youth Provision	Councillor O'Brien, Town Clerk	Cllr O'Brien, Town Clerk
Chard-Helmstedt Friendship Association	Cllr Bates (in her role as Mayor)	Cllr Bates

2026/85 Schedule of Meetings

Noted a schedule of meetings for the next Council year will be drafted, circulated and bought to the next Full Council meeting proposed for June 2026.

2026/86 Start Date of The New Town Clerk

The new Town Clerk (Stephen Hill) is to start at the Guildhall on 6th July 2026. The fixed term contract for the current Chief Executive & Town Clerk (David Bell) ends on 23rd June 2026.

Recommended:
That the Mayor be authorised to seek, by mutual agreement, an extension of the contract with the existing Town Clerk to run until 5th July 2026 inclusive for continuity.

Proposed : Cllr J Kenton Seconded: Cllr Bulmer
Unanimous

Resolved: Mayor and Chair of HR to negotiate agreement re the extension of the contract for the current Town Clerk to 5th July 2026 inclusive.

2026/45 Date of Next Meeting

Council noted the next Full Chard Town Council meeting is Monday 22nd June 2026. To be held at The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP and commence at 7pm

Draft

There being no other business, The Mayor thanked all those in attendance for coming and closed the meeting.

Date: **Signed:**

Draft

Agenda item 2026/94 B

Chard Town Council
The Guildhall
Fore Street
Chard
United Kingdom
TA20 1PP

Your Account

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

01 April 2026 to 30 April 2026

Money In	£707,145.45	**Balance on 01 April 2026**	£26,411.62
Money Out	£718,764.24	**Balance on 30 April 2026**	£13,792.83

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
01 Apr 26	[redacted]	BGC	1,000.00		26,411.62
01 Apr 26		DD		43.62	26,368.00
01 Apr 26		DD		86.38	26,281.62
01 Apr 26		DD		1,008.21	25,273.41
01 Apr 26		DD		2,011.20	23,262.21
01 Apr 26		DD		4,447.68	18,814.53
01 Apr 26		FPI	642.00		19,456.53
01 Apr 26		FPI	93.54		19,550.07
02 Apr 26		FPI	567.00		20,117.07
02 Apr 26		DEB		12.99	20,104.08
07 Apr 26		DEB		24.00	20,080.08
07 Apr 26		TFR	44,000.00		64,080.08
07 Apr 26		FPI	222.18		64,302.26
08 Apr 26		DD		43,857.33	20,444.93
08 Apr 26		FPI	96.90		20,541.83
08 Apr 26		FPI	26.25		20,568.08

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LLOYDS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
09 Apr 26	[redacted]	BGC	120.00		20,688.08
09 Apr 26		BGC	6,080.75		26,768.83
09 Apr 26		BGC	593,689.00		620,457.83
09 Apr 26		TFR	20,000.00		640,457.83
09 Apr 26		TFR		250,000.00	390,457.83
09 Apr 26		TFR		250,000.00	140,457.83
09 Apr 26		TFR		93,689.00	46,768.83
09 Apr 26		FPI	12.50		46,781.33
09 Apr 26		FPI	42.39		46,823.72
10 Apr 26		DD		405.43	46,418.29
10 Apr 26		DD		20,028.74	26,389.55
13 Apr 26		DEB		18.85	26,370.70
13 Apr 26		FPI	339.00		26,709.70
13 Apr 26		FPI	226.00		26,935.70
13 Apr 26		FPI	452.00		27,387.70
13 Apr 26		FPI	452.00		27,839.70
13 Apr 26		FPI	642.00		28,481.70
14 Apr 26		BGC	58.00		28,539.70
14 Apr 26		DD		1,584.06	26,955.64
14 Apr 26		DEP	541.25		27,496.89
14 Apr 26		FPI	360.54		27,857.43
15 Apr 26		BGC	57.00		27,914.43

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BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
15 Apr 26	[redacted]	BGC	162.00		28,076.43
15 Apr 26		DD		53.35	28,023.08
15 Apr 26		DD		132.80	27,890.28
15 Apr 26		FPI	68.85		27,959.13
15 Apr 26		FPI	12.50		27,971.63
16 Apr 26		DD		2,398.65	25,572.98
16 Apr 26		FPI	124.74		25,697.72
20 Apr 26		FPI	27.73		25,725.45
20 Apr 26		FPI	110.00		25,835.45
20 Apr 26		DD		800.00	25,035.45
20 Apr 26		FPI	99.00		25,134.45
20 Apr 26		FPI	191.71		25,326.16
20 Apr 26		PAY		14.54	25,311.62
21 Apr 26		FPI	117.15		25,428.77
21 Apr 26		FPI	12.00		25,440.77
23 Apr 26		DD		10,431.93	15,008.84
23 Apr 26		FPI	963.00		15,971.84
23 Apr 26		DEB		17.67	15,954.17
24 Apr 26		BGC	297.60		16,251.77
24 Apr 26		DD		102.63	16,149.14
24 Apr 26		FPI	642.00		16,791.14
24 Apr 26		DEP	443.40		17,234.54

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LLOYDS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
24 Apr 26	[redacted]	FPI	26.25		17,260.79
24 Apr 26		DEB		20.00	17,240.79
24 Apr 26		FPI	82.50		17,323.29
27 Apr 26		FPI	452.00		17,775.29
27 Apr 26		TFR	32,500.00		50,275.29
27 Apr 26		FPI	191.72		50,467.01
27 Apr 26		DEB		282.59	50,184.42
27 Apr 26		FPI	165.00		50,349.42
28 Apr 26		DD		124.42	50,225.00
28 Apr 26		DD		32,308.49	17,916.51
29 Apr 26		DD		4,789.68	13,126.83
30 Apr 26		FPI	678.00		13,804.83
30 Apr 26		FPI	58.00		13,862.83
30 Apr 26		CPT		70.00	13,792.83

Transaction types

BGC Bank Giro Credit
BP Bill Payments
CHG Charge
CHQ Cheque
COR Correction
CPT Cashpoint
DD Direct Debit
DEB Debit Card
DEP Deposit
FEE Fixed Service
FPI Faster Payment In
FPO Faster Payment Out
MPI Mobile Payment In
MPO Mobile Payment Out
PAY Payment
SO Standing Order
TFR Transfer

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Agenda Item 2026/94 A

67	24.04.2026	Eventbrite Operative	Eventbrite fees	£29.40	£5.88	£35.28
66	29.04.2026	O G Protection Ltd	Event security	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
65	29.04.2026	GW Machinery Services	Equipment maintenance	£658.14	£131.62	£789.76
64	29.04.2026	Chard Concert Brass	Event-Performer	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00
63	29.04.2026	Catering4U	Catering	£1,100.00	£0.00	£1,100.00
62	29.04.2026	CHG South West Ltd	Guildhall -Plumbing & Heating	£1,615.00	£323.00	£1,938.00
61	29.04.2026	Kings Group Ltd	The Hive -Fire & Security	£195.00	£39.00	£234.00
60	29.04.2026	Somerset Mobile Bars	Events- Bar	£172.92	£34.58	£207.50
59	29.04.2026	Mayors Ball	Reimbursement	£138.85	£27.77	£166.62
58	29.04.2026	Travel	Expense claim	£20.70	£0.00	£20.70
57	29.04.2026	Travel	Expense claim	£13.10	£0.00	£13.10
56	28.04.2026	Salaries	Payroll -April	£32,308.49	£0.00	£32,308.49
55	28.04.2026	Veolia	Waste collection	£103.68	£20.74	£124.42
54	27.04.2026	Booker	Events -Refreshments	£241.73	£40.86	£282.59
53	27.04.2026	SUM UP	Sumup fees	£3.28	£0.00	£3.28
51	24.04.2026	Comic Relief	Charity donations	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
50	24.04.2026	Vodafone	Mobile phones	£85.53	£17.10	£102.63
49	23.04.2026	LOCALiQ	Advertising	£110.00	£22.00	£132.00
69	23.04.2026	Home bargains	Events- Refreshments	£14.72	£2.95	£17.67
48	23.04.2026	Merch Monkey	Uniform	£132.00	£0.00	£132.00
47	23.04.2026	The Blackmore Vale Ltd	Advertising	£130.00	£26.00	£156.00
46	23.04.2026	Wessex Industrial Doors Ltd	Engineer visit	£754.00	£150.80	£904.80
45	23.04.2026	Somerset Council	Road Closure	£580.83	£116.17	£697.00
44	23.04.2026	NABMA	Annual subscription	£509.00	£0.00	£509.00
43	23.04.2026	Biffa Waste Management	Waste collection	£1,181.15	£236.23	£1,417.38
42	23.04.2026	AF-IT	IT	£175.00	£35.00	£210.00
41	23.04.2026	AF-IT	IT	£500.40	£100.08	£600.48
40	23.04.2026	Olive Tree Training	Training	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
39	23.04.2026	Scribe	Cemetery subscription	£57.00	£11.40	£68.40
38	23.04.2026	Scribe	Scribe subscriptions	£230.00	£46.00	£276.00
37	23.04.2026	SALC	Affiliation fee	£2,777.90	£0.00	£2,777.90
36	23.04.2026	Tudor environmental	PPE	£98.65	£1.50	£100.15
35	23.04.2026	Tudor environmental	PPE	£98.65	£1.50	£100.15
34	23.04.2026	VIKING	Ancilliaries	£190.56	£38.11	£228.67
33	23.04.2026	The Flyer Publications Ltd	Advertising	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
32	23.04.2026	Mike Hill (Plumber)	Guildhall -Plumbing & Heating	£484.00	£0.00	£484.00
31	23.04.2026	Aro	Mobile phones	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
30	23.04.2026	Chard Cricket Club Ltd	Community Grant	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,000.00
29	20.04.2026	Lloyds bank	Bank/Service charges	£14.54	£0.00	£14.54
28	20.04.2026	The Ragtag Poodles	Event-Performer	£800.00	£0.00	£800.00
27	16.04.2026	WME	Cemetery Electricity	£164.11	£8.21	£172.32
26	16.04.2026	WME	Boden Street Electricity	£37.24	£1.86	£39.10
25	16.04.2026	WME	Recreational Ground Electricity	£100.92	£5.05	£105.97
24	16.04.2026	WME	Recreational Ground Electricity	£70.37	£3.52	£73.89
23	16.04.2026	WME	Guildhall Electricity	£1,627.29	£325.46	£1,952.75
22	16.04.2026	WME	Guildhall Electricity	£45.52	£9.10	£54.62
21	15.04.2026	Fuel Genie	Fuel	£110.67	£22.13	£132.80
20	15.04.2026	EE	Mobile phones	£44.45	£8.90	£53.35
18	14.04.2026	WME	Guildhall Gas	£1,320.05	£264.01	£1,584.06
16	13.04.2026	Post Office	Postage	£15.71	£3.14	£18.85
15	10.04.2026	HMRC	PAYE & NI Payment	£11,119.05	£0.00	£11,119.05
14	10.04.2026	Somerset Council Pension Fund	Pension Payment	£8,909.69	£0.00	£8,909.69
13	10.04.2026	Octopus energy	The Hive - Gas & Electricity	£386.12	£19.31	£405.43
12	01.04.2026	TV Licencing	The Hive -TV Licence	£43.62	£0.00	£43.62
11	08.04.2026	James Hallam	Insurance	£43,857.33	£0.00	£43,857.33
10	07.04.2026	SUM UP	Sumup fees	£3.82	£0.00	£3.82
9	07.04.2026	B&Q	Property maintenance	£20.00	£4.00	£24.00
8	01.04.2026	Chard Cricket Club Ltd	Payment returned	-£1,000.00	£0.00	-£1,000.00
7	02.04.2026	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£12.99	£0.00	£12.99
6	01.04.2026	Somerset Council	Guildhall Rates	£4,447.68	£0.00	£4,447.68
5	01.04.2026	Somerset Council	Cemetery Rates	£2,011.20	£0.00	£2,011.20
4	01.04.2026	Somerset Council	Store Rates	£1,008.21	£0.00	£1,008.21
3	01.04.2026	Somerset Council	Open Air Market Rates	£86.38	£0.00	£86.38
			Petty Cash			
73	22.04.2026	Market -Refreshments	Sainsburys	£1.37	£0.28	£1.65
72	22.04.2026	Property maintenance	Proper Job	£1.67	£0.33	£2.00
71	20.04.2026	Janitorial	Home bargains	£6.65	£1.33	£7.98
70	29.04.2026	Janitorial	Proper Job	£9.09	£1.83	£10.92
52	27.04.2026	Refreshments for Town Meeting	Home bargains	£12.53	£2.51	£15.04
19	17.04.2026	Janitorial	Home bargains	£4.59	£0.92	£5.51
17	10.04.2026	Property maintenance	Properjob	£16.66	£3.33	£19.99
2	02.04.2026	Janitorial	Home bargains	£3.77	£0.76	£4.53
1	01.04.2026	Ancilliaries	Proper Job	£2.08	£0.42	£2.50

Agenda Item 2026/94 A

168	26.05.2026	BT	The Hive -Broadband	£21.52	£4.30	£25.82
167	28.05.2026	Salaries	Payroll -Salaries	£30,422.92	£0.00	£30,422.92
166	28.05.2026	VIKING	Stationery	£58.32	£11.67	£69.99
165	28.05.2026	Jason Baker	The Hive -Equipment	£435.39	£0.00	£435.39
164	28.05.2026	Victoria Bates	Reimbursement	£70.79	£0.00	£70.79
163	28.05.2026	Victoria Bates	Reimbursement	£286.35	£0.00	£286.35
162	28.05.2026	Eagle Plant	Equipment	£1,032.00	£206.40	£1,238.40
161	28.05.2026	Bartlett Park Garage	Vehicle maintenance	£497.70	£99.54	£597.24
160	28.05.2026	Bartlett Park Garage	Vehicle maintenance	£424.32	£84.87	£509.19
159	28.05.2026	Mike Hill (Plumber)	Guildhall -Plumbing & Heating	£74.00	£0.00	£74.00
158	28.05.2026	Pristine Deep Cleaning Company	Waste collection	£800.00	£160.00	£960.00
157	28.05.2026	1st Chard Scouts	Mayors Charity fundraising payment	£1,329.44	£0.00	£1,329.44
156	28.05.2026	Veolia	Waste collection	£136.08	£27.22	£163.30
153	26.05.2026	Vodafone	Mobile phones	£85.53	£17.10	£102.63
152	26.05.2026	Booker	Market -Refreshments	£142.23	£0.00	£142.23
151	22.05.2026	Screwfix	Equipment	£287.47	£57.50	£344.97
148	19.05.2026	Lloyds bank	Bank/Service charges	£23.77	£0.00	£23.77
147	20.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£28.70	£5.74	£34.44
146	20.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£49.99	£0.00	£49.99
145	20.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£50.56	£10.11	£60.67
144	20.05.2026	Tudor environmental	Bin bags	£787.50	£157.50	£945.00
143	20.05.2026	NISBETS	Kitchen supplies	£81.96	£16.39	£98.35
142	20.05.2026	Gazeboshop	Gazebo	£827.91	£165.58	£993.49
141	20.05.2026	O G Protection Ltd	Event security	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00
140	20.05.2026	Procurement Services -KCC	Rental -Photocopier	£121.50	£24.30	£145.80
139	20.05.2026	LOCALiQ	Advertising	£110.00	£22.00	£132.00
138	20.05.2026	SALC	Legal & Professional fees	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
137	20.05.2026	Hot Rock Group Ltd	Event-Performer	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
136	20.05.2026	Expert Access Solutions	Call out - Building security	£407.83	£81.57	£489.40
135	20.05.2026	Chard Carnival Committee	Event - Marshalling	£197.36	£0.00	£197.36
133	18.05.2026	SUM UP	Sumup fees	£2.29	£0.00	£2.29
132	19.05.2026	WME	Boden Street Electricity	£41.11	£2.06	£43.17
131	19.05.2026	WME	Cemetery Electricity	£171.50	£8.58	£180.08
130	19.05.2026	WME	Recreational Ground Electricity	£87.73	£4.39	£92.12
129	19.05.2026	WME	Recreational Ground Electricity	£79.29	£3.96	£83.25
128	19.05.2026	WME	Guildhall Electricity	£1,368.95	£273.79	£1,642.74
127	19.05.2026	WME	Guildhall Gas	£1,378.42	£275.68	£1,654.10
126	13.05.2026	Octopus energy	The Hive - Gas & Electricity	£367.70	£18.38	£386.08
125	18.05.2026	Fuel Genie	Fuel	£143.44	£28.68	£172.12
124	14.05.2026	Home bargains	Market -Refreshments	£16.64	£0.48	£17.12
123	15.05.2026	Somerset Council Pension Fund	Pension Payment	£8,318.76	£0.00	£8,318.76
122	15.05.2026	HMRC	PAYE & NI Payment	£12,542.82	£0.00	£12,542.82
121	15.05.2026	EE	Mobile phones	£45.25	£9.05	£54.30
120	14.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£33.29	£6.66	£39.95
119	14.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£8.67	£1.73	£10.40
118	14.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£34.24	£6.88	£41.12
117	14.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£5.47	£1.10	£6.57
116	14.05.2026	Amazon	Stationery	£32.48	£6.49	£38.97
115	14.05.2026	Amazon	Event Decorations	£17.47	£3.50	£20.97
114	14.05.2026	Abi Miller	Event-Performer	£300.00	£0.00	£300.00
113	14.05.2026	J Dunn	Window cleaning	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00
112	14.05.2026	Scribe	Scribe subscriptions	£230.00	£46.00	£276.00
111	14.05.2026	Bartlett Park Garage	Vehicle maintenance	£56.00	£11.20	£67.20
110	14.05.2026	VIKING	Stationery	£86.30	£17.26	£103.56
109	14.05.2026	VIKING	Stationery	£142.48	£1.20	£143.68
108	14.05.2026	Aro	Mobile phones	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
107	14.05.2026	WME	Guildhall Electricity	£49.04	£9.81	£58.85
106	11.05.2026	SUM UP	Sumup fees	£3.30	£0.66	£3.96
105	12.05.2026	Screwfix	Security systems	£213.31	£42.66	£255.97
104	13.05.2026	Carnival Committee	Event - Marshalling	-£197.36	£0.00	-£197.36
103	05.05.2026	Booker	Events -Refreshments	£65.27	£0.00	£65.27
102	01.05.2026	TV Licencing	The Hive -TV Licence	£43.62	£0.00	£43.62
101	07.05.2026	OnBuy Ltd	Guildhall maintenance	£14.49	£2.90	£17.39
100	08.05.2026	Rheos Environmental Consulting Ltd	Flood investigation work	£225.00	£0.00	£225.00
99	08.05.2026	Scribe	Cemetery subscription	£57.00	£11.40	£68.40
98	08.05.2026	Biffa Waste Management	Waste collection	£1,001.43	£200.29	£1,201.72
97	08.05.2026	BERRYS	Ticket sales	£72.90	£0.00	£72.90
96	08.05.2026	Victoria Bates	Reimbursement	£138.85	£27.77	£166.62
95	08.05.2026	Certas Energy	White Diesel	£2,618.08	£523.62	£3,141.70
94	08.05.2026	AF-IT CONN	IT	£98.80	£19.77	£118.57
93	08.05.2026	AF-IT	IT	£498.00	£99.60	£597.60
92	08.05.2026	AF-IT	IT	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00
91	08.05.2026	Danfo (UK) Ltd	Bath Street toilet-Cleaning	£1,281.64	£256.33	£1,537.97
90	08.05.2026	GW Machinery Services	Equipment maintenance	£411.00	£82.20	£493.20
89	08.05.2026	The Hive Young People's Centre	Youth provisions	£5,416.66	£0.00	£5,416.66
88	08.05.2026	The Hive Young People's Centre	Youth provisions	£5,416.66	£0.00	£5,416.66
87	08.05.2026	JEWSON	Equipment maintenance	£351.34	£70.27	£421.61
86	08.05.2026	Chard Carnival Committee	Event - Marshalling	£197.36	£0.00	£197.36
85	08.05.2026	Chard Digital Print	Event -Advertising	£65.00	£0.00	£65.00
84	08.05.2026	Lentells	Payroll -Services	£255.45	£51.09	£306.54
82	05.05.2026	SUM UP	Sumup fees	£0.54	£0.00	£0.54
80	05.05.2026	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£12.99	£0.00	£12.99
79	01.05.2026	Printmytickets	Ticket book	£13.41	£2.68	£16.09
78	01.05.2026	Lloyds bank	Bank/Service charges	£85.90	£0.00	£85.90
77	01.05.2026	BT	The Hive -Broadband	£35.82	£7.17	£42.99
75	07.05.2026	B&Q	Guildhall maintenance	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00
74	05.05.2026	Argos	Event Decorations	£40.00	£0.00	£40.00
68	01.05.2026	Eventbrite	Eventbrite fees	£23.00	£4.60	£27.60

Agenda Item 2026/94 B

LLOYDS BANK

Commercial Instant Access Account Statement

Printed: 01 May 2026

Chard Town Council
The Guildhall
Fore Street
Chard
United Kingdom
TA20 1PP

Sort code 30-99-50
BIC: LOYDGB21287

Account number 64985068
IBAN: GB07 LOYD 3099 5064 9850 68

The data shown on your statement was correct at the time of printing. Please remember, this isn't an official bank copy.

Please check your statement. If you think that something looks incorrect, please call us on 0345 072 5555 Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm, Saturday 9am to 2pm (+44 (0) 1733 347 338, from outside the UK). Or Textphone 0345 601 6909.

Date	Description	Type	In (£)	Out (£)	Balance (£)
27 Apr 26	[redacted]	TFR		32500.00	1434272.84
09 Apr 26			690.23		1466772.84
09 Apr 26		TFR	93689.00		1466082.61
09 Apr 26		TFR	250000.00		1372393.61
09 Apr 26		TFR	250000.00		1122393.61
09 Apr 26		TFR		20000.00	872393.61
07 Apr 26		TFR		44000.00	892393.61

Lloyds Bank plc Registered Office: 25 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HN. Registered in England and Wales no. 2065. Telephone: 0207 626 1500.

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority under Registration Number 119278.

Eligible deposits with us are protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). We are covered by the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS). Please note that due to FSCS and FOS eligibility criteria not all business customers will be covered. For further information about the compensation provided by the FSCS, refer to the FSCS website at www.FSCS.org.uk/.

Agenda Item 2026/94 B

LLOYDS

01 June 2026

Chard Town Council
The Guildhall
Fore Street
Chard
United Kingdom
TA20 1PP

Your Account

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

01 May 2026 to 31 May 2026

Money In	£86,417.35	**Balance on 01 May 2026**	£13,822.83
Money Out	£87,596.59	**Balance on 31 May 2026**	£12,613.59

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
01 May 26	[redacted]	BGC	30.00		13,822.83
01 May 26		BGC	138.00		13,960.83
01 May 26		BGC	166.62		14,127.45
01 May 26		DD		42.99	14,084.46
01 May 26		DD		43.62	14,040.84
01 May 26		FPI	60.00		14,100.84
01 May 26		FPI	12.00		14,112.84
01 May 26		FPI	6.00		14,118.84
01 May 26		PAY		85.90	14,032.94
01 May 26		DEB		16.09	14,016.85
05 May 26		DEB		12.99	14,003.86
05 May 26		DEB		40.00	13,963.86
05 May 26		DEB		65.27	13,898.59
05 May 26		FPI	642.00		14,540.59
05 May 26		FPI	31.70		14,572.29
06 May 26		BGC	57.00		14,629.29

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LLOYDS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
07 May 26	[redacted]	TFR	20,000.00		34,629.29
07 May 26		FPI	96.90		34,726.19
07 May 26		DEB		17.39	34,708.80
07 May 26		DEB		30.00	34,678.80
08 May 26		BGC	1,582.96		36,261.76
08 May 26		DD		19,489.51	16,772.25
11 May 26		FPI	207.28		16,979.53
12 May 26		BGC	197.36		17,176.89
12 May 26		DEB		255.97	16,920.92
13 May 26		DD		386.08	16,534.84
13 May 26		FPI	144.00		16,678.84
13 May 26		FPI	462.00		17,140.84
13 May 26		FPI	93.54		17,234.38
14 May 26		BGC	180.65		17,415.03
14 May 26		DD		58.85	17,356.18
14 May 26		DD		1,128.42	16,227.76
14 May 26		TFR	21,000.00		37,227.76
14 May 26		FPI	117.15		37,344.91
14 May 26		DEB		17.12	37,327.79
15 May 26		DD		54.30	37,273.49
15 May 26		DD		20,861.58	16,411.91
15 May 26		FPI	24.00		16,435.91

(Continued on next page)

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LLOYDS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
18 May 26	[redacted]	BGC	150.00		16,585.91
18 May 26		DD		172.12	16,413.79
18 May 26		FPI	103.12		16,516.91
18 May 26		FPI	452.00		16,968.91
18 May 26		FPI	116.21		17,085.12
18 May 26		FPI	26.25		17,111.37
19 May 26		DD		3,695.46	13,415.91
19 May 26		PAY		23.77	13,392.14
20 May 26		BGC	642.00		14,034.14
20 May 26		DD		4,326.50	9,707.64
21 May 26		FPI	170.00		9,877.64
21 May 26		FPI	58.00		9,935.64
21 May 26		FPI	39.92		9,975.56
22 May 26		BGC	642.00		10,617.56
22 May 26		FPI	170.00		10,787.56
22 May 26		DEB		344.97	10,442.59
26 May 26		DEB		142.23	10,300.36
26 May 26		FPI	452.00		10,752.36
26 May 26		BGC	41.25		10,793.61
26 May 26		BGC	67.50		10,861.11
26 May 26		DD		25.82	10,835.29
26 May 26		DD		102.63	10,732.66

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LLOYDS

BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Sort Code 30-99-50
Account Number 54960560

Your Transactions

Date	Description	Type	Money In (£)	Money Out (£)	Balance (£)
26 May 26	[redacted]	FPI	452.00		11,184.66
26 May 26		FPI	45.00		11,229.66
26 May 26		FPI	108.00		11,337.66
26 May 26		FPI	96.90		11,434.56
27 May 26		FPI	226.00		11,660.56
27 May 26		TFR	30,000.00		41,660.56
28 May 26		BGC	57.00		41,717.56
28 May 26		DD		163.30	41,554.26
28 May 26		DD		5,570.79	35,983.47
28 May 26		DD		30,422.92	5,560.55
28 May 26		TFR	6,000.00		11,560.55
28 May 26		DEP	151.30		11,711.85
28 May 26		DEP	901.74		12,613.59

Transaction types

BGC	Bank Giro Credit	**BP**	Bill Payments	**CHG**	Charge	**CHQ**	Cheque
COR	Correction	**CPT**	Cashpoint	**DD**	Direct Debit	**DEB**	Debit Card
DEP	Deposit	**FEE**	Fixed Service	**FPI**	Faster Payment In	**FPO**	Faster Payment Out
MPI	Mobile Payment In	**MPO**	Mobile Payment Out	**PAY**	Payment	**SO**	Standing Order
TFR	Transfer						

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Agenda Item 2026/94 B

LLOYDS BANK

Commercial Instant Access Account Statement

Printed: 01 June 2026

Chard Town Council
The Guildhall
Fore Street
Chard
United Kingdom
TA20 1PP

Sort code 30-99-50 Account number 64985068
BIC: LOYDGB21287 IBAN: GB07 LOYD 3099 5064 9850 68

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Date	Description	Type	In (£)	Out (£)	Balance (£)
28 May 26	[redacted]	TFR		6000.00	1358415.70
27 May 26		TFR		30000.00	1364415.70
14 May 26		TFR		21000.00	1394415.70
11 May 26			1142.86		1415415.70
07 May 26		TFR		20000.00	1414272.84

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Agenda Item 2026/94 B

1 May 2026 (2026-2027)

Chard Town Council

Prepared by: Teresa Turnbull Finance Officer Date: 01.05.26

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr Jason Baker Date: 02.05.26

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 30/04/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			1,505,924.38
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 30/04/2026			610,378.06
				2,116,302.44
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 30/04/2026			124,117.74
A	**Cash in Hand 30/04/2026** (per Cash Book)			**1,992,184.70**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Lloyds Current A/c	30/04/2026	13,792.83	
	Lloyds Instant Deposit	30/04/2026	1,434,272.84	
	Petty Cash Account	30/04/2026	303.72	
	Nationwide Instant Saver 9000	30/04/2026	376,336.46	
	Nationwide Instant Saver 90010	30/04/2026	167,478.85	
				1,992,184.70
	Less unpresented payments			
				1,992,184.70
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**1,992,184.70**
	A = B Checks out OK			

Created by Scribe

Agenda Item 2026/94 B

Chard Town Council

Prepared by: Teresa Turnbull Finance Officer Date: 01.06.26

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: Cllr. Jason Baker Date: 02.06.26

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 31/05/2026			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026			1,505,924.38
	ADD			
	Receipts 01/04/2026 - 31/05/2026			620,608.68
				2,126,533.06
	SUBTRACT			
	Payments 01/04/2026 - 31/05/2026			211,423.80
A	**Cash in Hand 31/05/2026** (per Cash Book)			**1,915,109.26**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements			
	Lloyds Current A/c	31/05/2026	12,613.59	
	Lloyds Instant Deposit	31/05/2026	1,358,415.70	
	Petty Cash Account	31/05/2026	264.66	
	Nationwide Instant Saver 9000	30/04/2026	376,336.46	
	Nationwide Instant Saver 90010	30/04/2026	167,478.85	
				1,915,109.26
	Less unpresented payments			
				1,915,109.26
	Plus unpresented receipts			
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**			**1,915,109.26**
	A = B Checks out OK			

Created by Scribe

Representatives On External Bodies

The updated table (subject to agreement of Minutes) is shown below:

Organisation	2025/26	2026/27
Chard Museum	Councillors: Hassan & J. Kenton	Cllr J Kenton
Somerset Association of Local Councils	Cllr Bates	Cllr O'Brien
Town Team	Councillors: A Kenton & Hassan	Withdrawn
Clare House	Councillor O'Brien	Cllr Shortland
Allotment Association Forum	Councillors Baker & Hassan	Cllr Baker, Cllr Eggins
Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG)	Councillor Hussey	Cllr Hussey, Cllr Eggins
Youth Council	Councillors: Baker, Hussey & Richter	Cllr Baker, Cllr Hussey, Cllr Richter, Cllr Tribble
The Hive, Youth Provision	Councillor O'Brien, Town Clerk	Cllr O'Brien, Town Clerk
Chard-Helmstedt Friendship Association	Cllr Bates (in her role as Mayor)	Cllr Bates

THE HIVE YOUNG PEOPLES CENTRE

Chard, Somerset

Vision Statement & Future Development Plan — 2026

Our Vision

> ***To be the beating heart of Chard — a place where every young person, family, and child is seen, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive.***

The Hive Young Peoples Centre exists because we believe that where you grow up should never determine how far you go. We are more than a youth club. We are a community anchor — a warm, welcoming, judgment-free space where young people discover who they are, families find the support they need, and no one faces life's challenges alone.

Our vision is to become Chard's primary centre for youth and family services: a single, trusted destination that brings together early years provision, youth development, special educational needs support, home education, family wellbeing, and community food provision under one roof. A place the whole town is proud of.

Our Mission

To deliver accessible, inclusive, and high-quality support to the children, young people, and families of Chard and the surrounding area — removing barriers, building resilience, and creating a community where everyone belongs.

The evidence behind this mission is clear. Since 10 April 2026 to present, The Hive has delivered 49 sessions across 101.25 hours, reaching 228 unique young people and families across Chard and the surrounding villages and towns. Of those, 198 unique participants attended during the period — a figure that represents not just numbers, but trust. Trust that The Hive will be there, that it will be welcoming, and that it will make a difference

The depth of social need behind those numbers tells us exactly why this work matters. Of the 228 young people who attended, 18 were recorded as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, 42 were in receipt of Pupil Premium, 2 were registered disabled, and 1 was a young carer. For many of these young people, The Hive is more than a club — it is an early-help setting, a consistent adult relationship, and often the most reliable safe space in their week.

Who We Are Today

The Hive is based at Essex Close, Chard, TA20 1RH and is already at the heart of community life across the town. Our current provision includes:

After School Drop-In — Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 3:15–5:15pm

A safe, nurturing, and fun drop-in environment for young people to unwind, socialise, and get support after school. Sessions offer pool, air hockey, Xbox, arts and crafts, and homework support — all delivered by experienced youth workers who are there not just to supervise, but to listen. Every session includes free food, and our children's clothing bank to ensure that everyone is supported and is available on-site. For many young people in Chard, The Hive after school is the most important two hours of their day.



Evening Youth Club — Monday, Thursday and Friday Evenings

For young people aged 11–17

Three evenings a week, The Hive opens its doors for youth club. These sessions are the cornerstone of what we do and are free of charge — a place where young people can simply be themselves. Away from the pressures of school, social media, and home life, young people come together to play air hockey, pool, table football, take part in Just Dance, get creative with arts and crafts, and enjoy outdoor activities when the weather allows. Our evening youth clubs are open, welcoming, and free from judgment, we offer free food, snacks, Hot Chocolate and fruit so that everyone is treated the same and feels equal regardless of their financial background. For many young people in Chard, Monday, Thursday, or Friday night at The Hive is the most important place in their week.



The Hive Haven — Every Wednesday, 10:00am–12:00pm

For parents, carers, and children with additional needs and disabilities — term time only

The Hive Haven is a welcoming, relaxed, and genuinely understanding group for families of children with additional needs and disabilities. No diagnosis is required — just a desire to connect, be supported, and spend time somewhere that truly gets it. Families can access our dedicated sensory room, enjoy refreshments, meet other parents and carers, and find a safe, supportive environment where they are never judged and always welcome. Come for a chat and a Tea or Coffee.



Together, You Thrive — Every Friday, 1:00–3:00pm

For home educating families

Together, You Thrive is a warm and welcoming weekly group for home educating families — a relaxed space to connect, chat, share experiences, and access support. Home education can be an isolating path, and this group exists to change that. Families come together to share advice, build friendships, and remind one another that they are not alone. Tea, coffee, and friendly conversation always included. Everyone welcome.



Busy Bees — Every Monday, 12:00–2:00pm

Parent/carer, baby and toddler group

Busy Bees is a warm and welcoming space for parents, carers, and little ones to learn, play, and make new friends. Each session includes singing, arts and crafts, and sensory play — all designed to support early development while giving parents and carers the connection and community they need. Refreshments are available, and families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch. Come along, have fun, and make memories together.



Summer Holiday Programme

During the summer holidays. The Hive stays open. Our holiday programme ensures that children and young people — particularly those from lower-income households — have access to safe, stimulating, and enriching activities throughout the school holidays. We know that for many families, the holidays can be the hardest weeks of the year. We are here for those weeks.

Food Bank

Because no family in Chard should go hungry. Our food bank provides dignified, practical support to families experiencing hardship, delivered with warmth and without judgment. Food poverty is a reality for too many households in our community, and The Hive stands firmly against it.

Clothes Bank

Children grow fast, and the cost of keeping up is real. Our clothes bank provides good-quality donated clothing to families who need it — quietly, practically, and without stigma. We believe that every child deserves to feel comfortable and well-dressed regardless of their family's circumstances.

Free Food at Sessions

Every young person who comes through our door is fed. Free food at sessions is not an add-on — it is a statement of who we are. We know that a hungry child cannot engage, learn, or play. We remove that barrier, every single session, every single week.

Cook and Share

Our Cook and Share programme brings people together around food — teaching practical cooking skills, building confidence, encouraging healthy eating, and creating a shared table where community is built one meal at a time. Cook and Share is a community and educational project: about people, connection, and giving everyone the skills and confidence to feed themselves and those they love.

Our Impact — The Evidence

The Hive's impact is not just felt by the young people and families who walk through the door — it is measured, tracked, and evidenced. The data below is drawn from The Hive's Juice Impact Report from 10th April 2026 to 17th June 2026, covering five projects: Friday Night Youth Club, Monday Night Youth Club, Thursday Night Youth Club, After School Drop-In, and the Lego Parties event.

Reach and Engagement

In one year alone, The Hive delivered 49 sessions across 101.25 hours of provision, reaching 228 unique young people and families. Of these, 198 attended during the period, with 168 fully registered participants, 44 part-registered, and 16 one-off attendees. This level of reach — in a single market town in South Somerset — is a testament to how deeply The Hive is embedded in the life of this community.

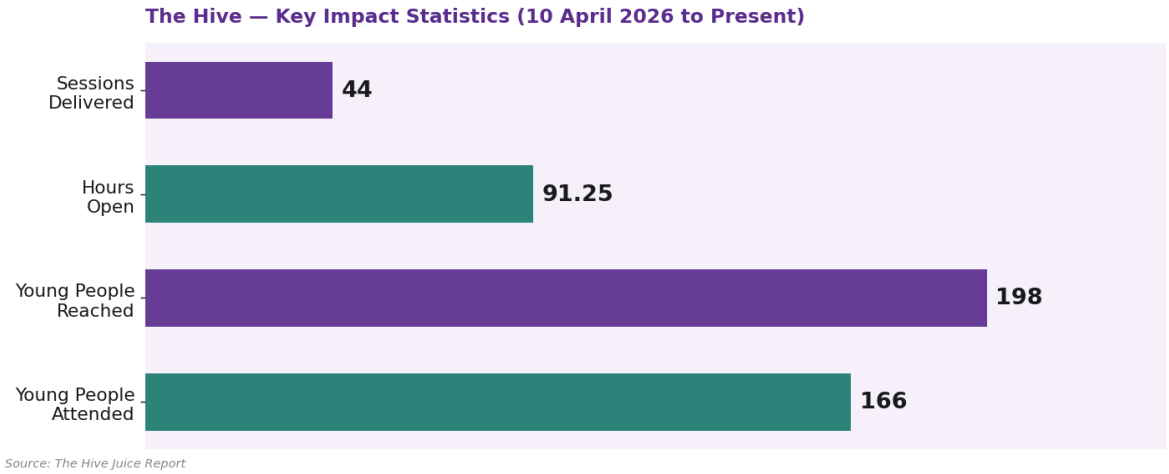


Figure 1: Key impact statistics for The Hive, 10 April 2026 to Present

School and Community Connections

Young people attending The Hive come from a wide range of local schools and education settings. The strongest connections are with Redstart Primary (67 attendees), Holyrood Academy (65), and Manor Court Primary (36), but the Centre also serves young people from Avishayes, Neroche, and a range of other schools, colleges, and home education contexts. Young people are travelling in not just from Chard itself but from Ilminster, Winsham, Crewkerne, Wellington, and the surrounding villages — clear evidence that The Hive is filling a gap that extends well beyond the town boundaries.

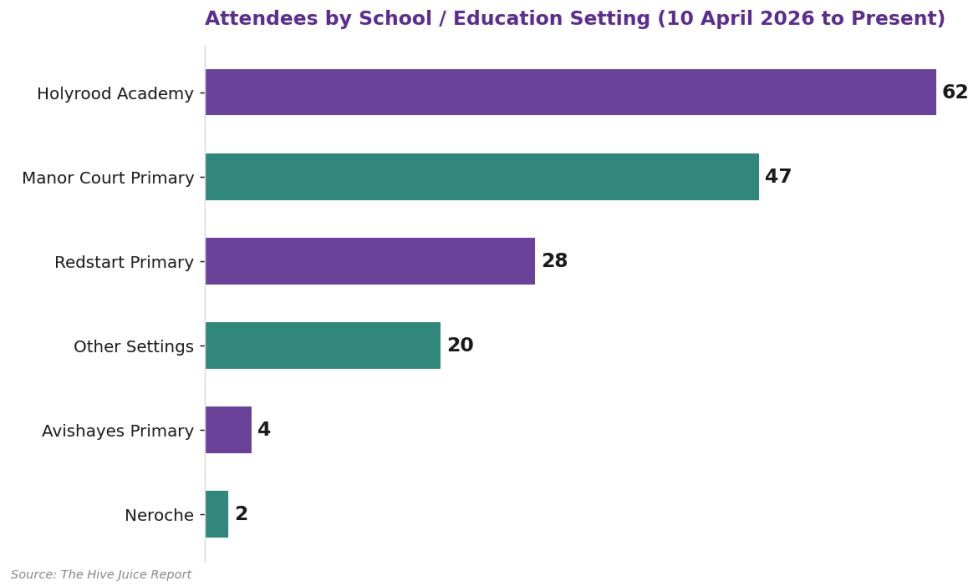


Figure 2: Attendees by school and education setting, 10 April 2026 to Present

What Young People Think

Young people's own feedback is perhaps the most important measure of all. Eleven activities were delivered across the period, and not one received a rating below three stars. Six activities received the maximum five-star rating — karaoke, Twister, pool table, creation station, air hockey, and an internet safety quiz — reflecting the range and quality of what The Hive offers. These ratings are evidence not just of enjoyment, but of young people feeling safe, engaged, and ready to try new things.

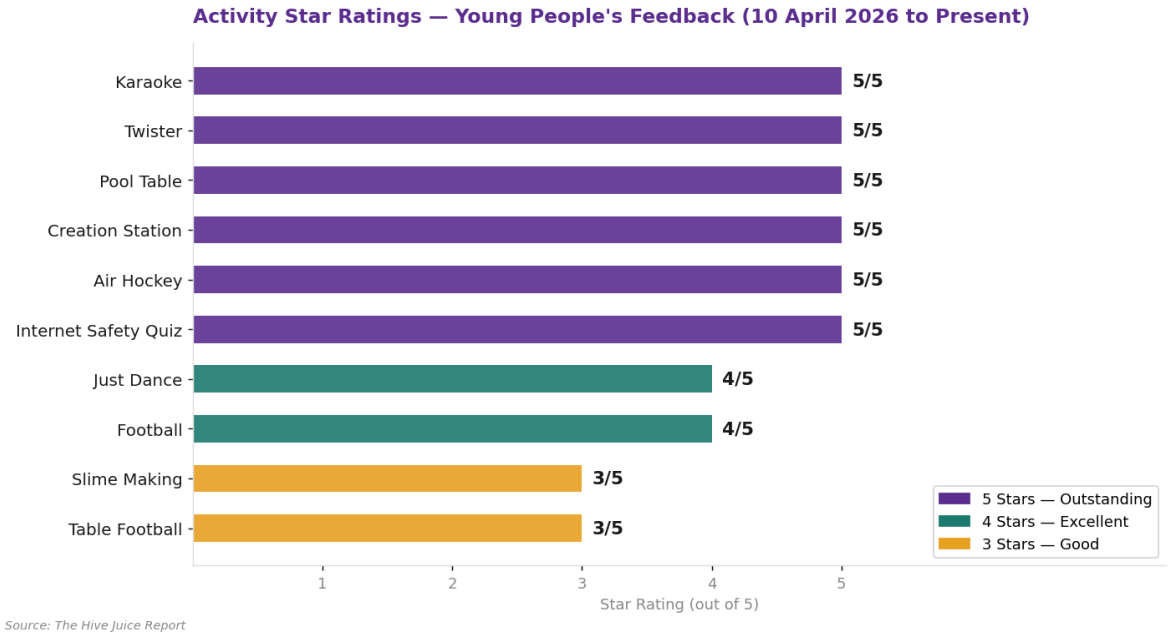


Figure 3: Activity star ratings based on young people's feedback

Supporting Those Who Need It Most

The Hive is not a service for those who have everything already sorted. The participation data makes clear that the Centre is reaching young people with significant additional needs and vulnerabilities. Of the 198 attendees, 42 (21%) were in receipt of Pupil Premium — a recognised indicator of disadvantage. 18 (11%) were recorded as having SEND. 2 were registered disabled, and 1 was a young carer. The near-equal gender split — 82 female and 82 male attendees — demonstrates that the provision is genuinely accessible and attractive across genders, which is a strong indicator of inclusive practice.

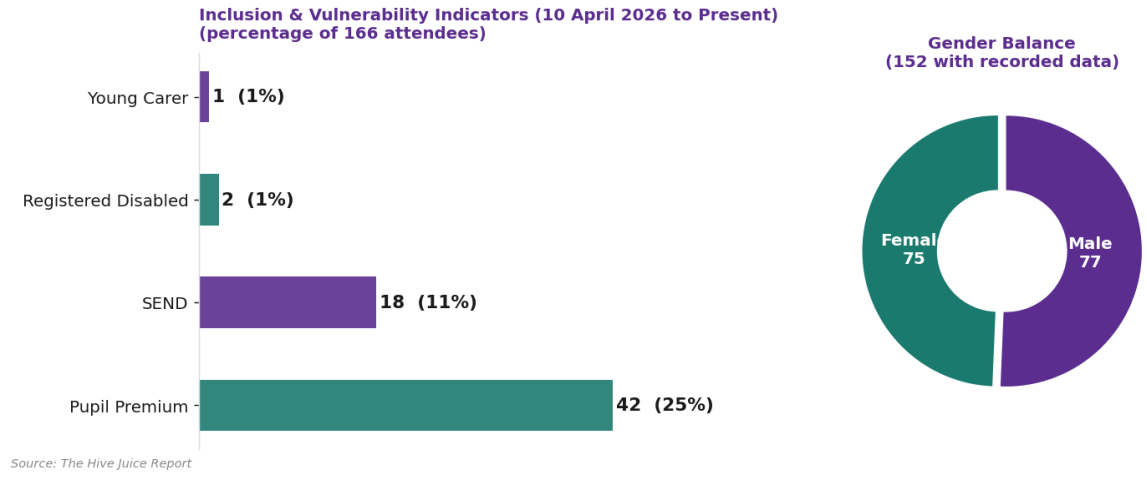


Figure 4: Inclusion and vulnerability indicators alongside gender balance, 10 April 2026 to Present

The Team Behind the Work

None of this happens without people. The Hive is powered by a committed core staff team — Kieran Downton, Katie Seward, Kerry Newbery, Martine Gillard, Yasmin Spiller, Deborah Weston, Justin Guest, Amber-Jane Walter — whose attendance and consistency across the year creates the stability that young people need. Alongside them, a team of dedicated volunteers including Jason Baker, Michelle Rees, Ben Overd, Brian Quinn, and Kimberley Mears, Natalie Sharland, Kirsty Mc Curdy Baillie and Trinity Davies give additional capacity, broader activity choice, and the personal attention that makes sessions feel like more than just a club.

49 sessions. 101.25 hours. 228 young people. One team. One community.

Detailed Impact Report

The following data is drawn from The Hive's Juice Impact Report covering the period 10th April 2026 to 17th July 2026, encompassing five core projects: Friday Night Youth Club, Monday Night Youth Club, Thursday Night Youth Club, After School Drop-In, and the Lego Parties event.

Activities Conducted

During this period, we delivered 11 planned activities. The planned programme included both high-energy and creative options, helping us meet a wide range of preferences and developmental needs. Activities rated highest by young people included Air Hockey, Creation Station, Twister, Internet Safety Quiz, Pool Table and Karaoke.

Activity Category	Count	Examples
Planned activities delivered	11	Air Hockey, Creation Station, Twister, Internet Safety Quiz, Pool Table, Karaoke, Just Dance, Football, Slime Making, Table Football

Activities such as Air Hockey, Pool Table and Just Dance support engagement and peer interaction, while Creation Station, Slime Making and the Internet Safety Quiz encourage creativity, discussion and learning. The clearly planned nature of the session offer supports predictability and routine, which is especially valuable for young people who benefit from structure.

Participation Overview

With 49 sessions, 101.25 hours open and 198 attendees, the engagement figures show the programme is active and valued, with many young people returning across multiple sessions. The 168 fully registered participants indicate a strong and stable base of service users, which is a positive indicator of trust and consistency.

Participation Measure	Value
Number of Unique Participants	228
Number of Unique Participants who Attended	198
Fully Registered	168
Part Registered	44
One-Off Registered	16
Registered Disabled	2
SEND	18
Pupil Premium	42
Young Carer	1
LGBTQ+	0

Gender participation was evenly balanced, with 82 female and 82 male attendees recorded. The age spread was broad, ranging from 0 to 26, with the largest concentrations at ages 10 (35 attendees), 9 (30), 11 (34), 8 (24), 13 (25) and 14 (26).

Age Breakdown

Age	Attendees	Age	Attendees
0	1	9	30
3	1	10	35
4	1	11	34
5	4	12	19
6	2	13	25
7	4	14	26
8	24	15	14
16	5	17	2
26	1		

Ethnicity Profile

The ethnic profile shows strong local participation with some diversity. A significant number of entries remain unspecified, which limits analysis and highlights the need for improved equality monitoring completion.

Ethnicity	Count
White	125
Other Ethnic Group	6
Mixed or Multiple	2
Asian, Asian British	1
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	1
Not specified	93

School and College Attendance

Young people attending The Hive come from a wide range of local schools and education settings. The three largest cohorts are Redstart Primary (67), Holyrood Academy (65), and Manor Court Primary (36). Note: attendance data contains multiple spelling variations; these have been consolidated below.

School / College	Total Attendees
Redstart Primary	67
Holyrood Academy	65
Manor Court Primary	36
Avishayes Primary	3
Combe St Nicholas	3
Other settings (Axe Valley, Chard Prep, Court Fields, Fairmead, Herne View, Neroche, Sky Academy, Woodroffe, Yeovil College and others)	Various

Town and Village Attendance

The overwhelming concentration of participants from Chard confirms the centre's local importance. Smaller numbers from surrounding villages and towns demonstrate an extended catchment despite a largely rural context.

Town / Village	Attendees
Chard	154
Ilminster	3
Winsham	2
Crewkerne	1
Wellington	1
Forton	1
South Chard	1
Tatworth	1

Safeguarding and Incidents

During the period, The Hive recorded 15 safeguarding incidents and 4 first aid incidents. These figures are not unusual for a busy youth setting, but they underline the need for sustained staffing, consistent training, robust policies and good inter-agency support. Youth work of this quality relies on skilled staff who are equipped and supported to respond to young people's real and complex needs.

Staff Sessions Attended

Staff attendance was strong and consistent throughout the period, with key worker presence across the programme.

Staff Member	Sessions Attended
Kieran Downton	34
Katie Seward	33
Kerry Newbery	28
Justin Guest	25
Yasmin Spiller	21
Deborah Weston	20
Martine Gillard	19
Amber-Jane Walter	18

Volunteer Sessions Attended

Volunteers made a meaningful contribution to activities and the wider welcoming atmosphere.

Volunteer	Sessions Attended
Jason Baker	22
Ben Overd	9
Michelle Rees	9
Brian Quinn	8
Kimberley Mears	3

Achievements

- Delivered 49 sessions and kept the centre open for 101.25 hours.
- Engaged 228 unique participants, with 198 attending in the period.
- Maintained a strong fully registered base of 168 young people.
- Achieved balanced gender participation: 82 female and 82 males.
- Supported young people with additional needs: 18 SEND, 42 Pupil Premium, 2 registered disabled, and 1 young carer.
- Delivered a broad planned programme of 11 activities, demonstrating organisational reliability.
- Built trusted relationships with staff and volunteers, reflected in strong and consistent team attendance.
- Maintained reach across Chard and surrounding areas, with participants from Ilminster, Winsham, Crewkerne, Wellington, and beyond.

Our Values

Inclusion — Every door at The Hive is open to everyone, regardless of background, ability, income, or circumstance.

Dignity — Support is given without condition, judgment, or bureaucracy. People are treated as whole human beings, not as cases.

Community — We are built by Chard, for Chard. The strength of this town is in its people, and we exist to bring those people together.

Ambition — We refuse to accept that lack of resource means lack of possibility. We will always reach further for the young people we serve.

Consistency — Young people and families need to know we will be here. Reliability is one of the most important things we offer.

Our Future — A Plan for Growth

Phase One: Strengthen and Expand

- **Extend the after-school drop-in** — to five days per week, ensuring full-week wraparound provision is available to all young people who need it.
- **Extend evening youth club provision** — with the aspiration to offer sessions every weekday evening — ensuring no young person in Chard is without somewhere safe, social, and supportive to go on a school night.
- **Begin working formally with NHS Somerset and Somerset Council** — to bring statutory services directly into The Hive — including health visiting, family support, and early help — so that families can access the support they need in a place they already know and trust.
- **Grow The Hive Haven** — with enhanced specialist input and deeper partnership with local SEND support services, schools, and the Local Authority — expanding both capacity and the range of support available to families.
- **Develop Together, You Thrive** — into a more structured weekly offer shaped directly by home educating families, including access to group learning activities and wider resource sharing.
- **Expand Busy Bees** — with additional early years activities and links to health visiting and family support services — making it a genuine first point of contact for new families in Chard.
- **Formalise the holiday programme** — as a year-round, fully funded offer aligned with the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme — ensuring every child has access to activities regardless of household income.
- **Expand Cook and Share** — into a regular community kitchen event open to the wider town — building skills, tackling food poverty, and creating intergenerational connection.
- **Establish formal referral pathways** — with local schools, GPs, health visitors, social care, and the Local Authority — positioning The Hive as a trusted first point of contact for families in need.

Phase Two: Become Chard's Go-To Place for Young People and Families

Our ambition is clear: The Hive should be the single most important place in Chard for young people and families to find support, connection, and opportunity.

We want every family in Chard — whatever their situation — to know that The Hive is the first place to turn. Not a last resort, not a referral destination buried in paperwork, but a familiar, trusted, open door that the whole town knows about and believes in.

- **Deepen our partnerships with NHS Somerset and Somerset Council** — — building on the foundations laid in Phase One to create a genuinely joined-up offer, where statutory and community support sit side by side.
- **Launch a Young Peoples Mental Health and Wellbeing programme** — in partnership with local CAMHS, schools, and voluntary sector organisations — meeting young people where they already feel safe.
- **Expand our sensory provision** — — building on The Hive Haven's existing sensory room to develop a wider offer for neurodivergent young people and their families across all our sessions.
- **Develop a Youth Voice and Leadership programme** — — giving young people from Chard a genuine stake in decisions that affect them, locally and regionally.
- **Build a volunteering and employability pathway** — for older young people — turning The Hive into a launchpad for futures, not just a safe space in the present.
- **Cement The Hive's reputation as the heart of Chard** — — formally recognised and funded by statutory partners as an essential part of how this town supports its children, young people, and families.

Our Funding and Sustainability Vision

Financial sustainability is the foundation on which everything else is built. Our funding strategy will:

- **Diversify income streams** — — grants, earned income, community fundraising, and service level agreements with statutory partners.
- **Build reserves** — — reducing vulnerability to single funding sources and creating resilience.
- **Pursue long-term statutory contracts** — — formalising The Hive's role as a key provider of youth and family services in Somerset.
- **Develop a local giving programme** — — engaging Chard businesses and residents in sustaining their community centre through regular giving and sponsorship.

Our Partnerships

No single organisation can meet every need. The Hive will build and deepen partnerships with:

- Local primary and secondary schools
- Somerset Council Children's Services and Early Help
- NHS Somerset — including health visiting, CAMHS, and GP practices
- Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP)
- Local food banks and community larder networks
- Home education networks across Somerset
- Local faith communities and civic organisations
- Chard Town Council and local elected representatives
- The wider voluntary and community sector across Somerset

A Final Word

Chard is a town that looks after its own. The Hive exists because this community understood that its young people needed somewhere — and built it. From Busy Bees on a Monday morning to youth club on a Friday night, from the sensory room in The Hive Haven to the shared table at Cook and Share, everything we do flows from that same simple, powerful belief:

> ***Every young person in Chard matters. Every family deserves support. And The Hive will be here — for all of them.***

The data confirms what our staff, volunteers and families already know: The Hive is doing something indispensable. It is preventing isolation, reducing barriers, building confidence and offering young people a positive relationship with their community. In a period where many services are stretched, this work is more important than ever. With the right investment and partnerships, The Hive can continue to be a beacon of resilience, inclusion and empowerment for years to come.



Jason Baker
Chairman & Safeguarding Lead
07736 310805

The Hive Young Peoples Centre
Essex Close, Chard, TA20 1RH
info@thehiveypc.co.uk
Vision Statement & Future Development Plan — 2026

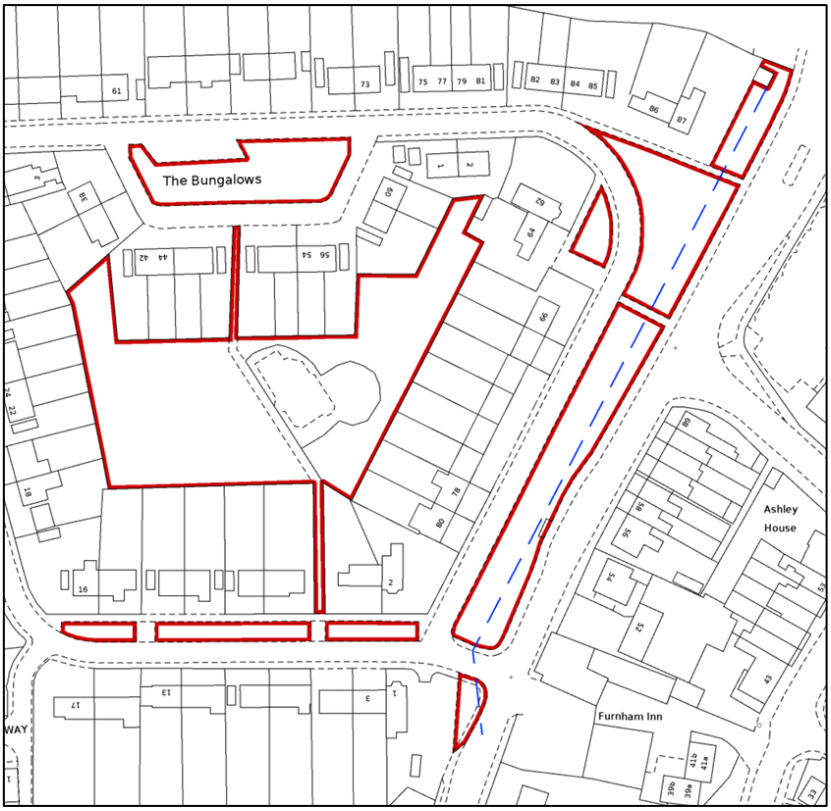
"Devolution" Update Note

It would appear that the five sites listed below are all or partly comprising parcels that are subject to a lease, i.e. Somerset Council is a tenant.

In these cases, Chard Town Council is likely to have the lease assigned. The Somerset Council Legal Team is conducting early investigations into these sites.

- Furzehill Play Area
- Jarman Way
- Mitchell Gardens
- Redstart
- Snowden Park

In addition, there is a site where the Land Registry Title appears to include additional sites to the primary asset of interest and as such Somerset Council is looking to transfer the whole title to Chard Town Council – with the exception of public highway areas.



There are three broader impact sites where further discussions are being held.

- Maintenance of Public Rights of Way
- High Street/Fore Street Rills
- Maintenance of Shrub Beds

Further sites under discussion:

- Bonfield Way Allotments
- Jarman Way
- Bondfield Way
- Stringfellow Crescent Play Area
- Snowdon Park including Play Area
- Cook Avenue Open Space
- Mitchel Gardens Open Space
- Oaklands Open Space

Draft Schedule Of Council Meetings 2026/27

May 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Annual Full Council (End of Year)	Monday 18th	7:00pm

June 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Planning & Highways	Monday 8th	6:00pm
~~Amenities & Events~~	Tuesday 9th	7:00pm
Finance & Audit	Tuesday 16th	7.00pm
Full Council	Monday 22nd	7.00pm

July 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
HR	Monday 13th	7.00pm
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 14th	7:00pm
Finance & Audit	Tuesday 21st	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 27th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 27th	7:00pm

August 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 11th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 24th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 24th	7.00 pm

September 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 8th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday28th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 28th	7.00pm

October 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 13th	7.00pm
Finance & Audit	Tuesday 20th	7.00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 26th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 26th	7:00pm

November 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
HR	Tuesday 3rd	7.00pm
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 10th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 23rd	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 23rd	7:00pm

December 2026		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 8th	7:00pm
Finance & Audit (Budget)	Tuesday 15th	7.00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 21st	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 21st	7.00pm

Draft Schedule Of Council Meetings 2026/27

January 2027		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 5th	7:00pm
Finance & Audit	Tuesday 12th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 25th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 25th	7:00pm

February 2027		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 9th	7.00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 22nd	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 22nd	7.00pm

March 2027		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
HR	Tuesday 2nd	7:00pm
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 9th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 22nd	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 22nd	7:00pm

April 2027		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Finance & Audit	Tuesday 6th	7:00pm
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 13th	7.00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 19th	6:00pm
Full Council	Monday 19th	7:00pm
Annual Town's Meeting	Monday 26th	7:00pm

May 202		
Committee	**Date**	**Time**
Amenities & Events	Tuesday 11th	7:00pm
Planning & Highways	Monday 24th	6:00pm
Annual Full Council	Monday 24th	7:00pm

Draft

Councillor Surgery Timetable August '26 to May '27

Chard Town Council Councillor surgeries are on the 3rd Saturday of every month 10.00 - 11.00 in the Foyer of the Guildhall.

Surgery Date	Councillors	
15th August '26	Cllr Eggins	Cllr Hussey
19th September	Cllr Crook	Cllr Bulmer
17th October	Cllr A Kenton	Cllr J Kenton
21st November	Cllr Williams	Cllr Tribble
19th December	Cllr Bates	Cllr Watson
16th January '27	Cllr Baker	Cllr Shortland
20th February	Cllr Richter	Cllr Eggins
20th March	Cllr Bulmer	Cllr Williams
17th April	Cllr O'Brien	Cllr A Kenton
15th May	Cllr Hassan	Cllr J Kenton

**NB – Though we aim to maintain this list, Councillors may be changed, or sessions may have to be cancelled.*

DRAFT

1. Background

1.1 Chard has experienced repeated flooding events of significant magnitude in recent decades but of greater frequency and magnitude in recent years (e.g. 2021, 2023, 2025). The flooding events have been the subject of flood investigation work by Somerset Council under their statutory obligation under Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (Section 19), although the statutory obligation primarily results in a data style report with little or no action emanating. Many of our community have expectations raised by such reports only to be disappointed by the outcomes.

1.2 Flooding affects many areas of the town, impacting roads, property, and local infrastructure. These events are driven by a complex combination of surface water, groundwater, drainage limitations, climatic change, and the cumulative and individual impacts of development and wider catchment changing conditions.

1.3 In 2021, a local group called Chard Area Resilience Group (CARG) was set up. Some aims are to assist in crisis management, gather evidence for those who believe (some still do) that Chard does not flood, identify problem areas for further investigation, inject considerable lived experience, qualifications and skills and encourage those in positions of responsibility in appropriate Authorities to join together to form effective, coordinated evidence-based prevention through partnership working.

1.4 I should point out that, until my appointment at Chard Town Council, I was Chair of CARG and so have first-hand experience in these matters since 2021. Since December 2023, Officers and some Councillors (working together and with CARG) have put magnificent effort in over long periods not only to build on the principles injected by CARG but also to deal with community safety issues through several nights under flood emergency conditions when circumstances demanded. Technically, it is not the Town Council remit to provide Civil Contingencies cover or carry out other tasks normally undertaken under a Multi-Agency Command Structure. However, under certain circumstances, Chard can be cut off from the outside world and even lose access to emergency services.

1.5 After about five years there is still **no clear strategy for Chard, nor any funded or deliverable programme of works to reduce flood risk**.

1.6 The Town Council does not have responsibility for strategic flood management. However, it does have a responsibility to represent its residents and, where necessary, challenge inaction and drive progress.

1.7 Despite Section 19 investigations advocating the need for partnership working, the Town Council has endeavoured to engage in discussions with relevant authorities (Somerset Council generally, Local Planning Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Highways & Wessex Water) about future development and options for future flood reduction, but to date response has been disappointing.

1.8 Invitations to multi-agency meetings have been declined (except by Somerset Rivers Authority, who remain supportive and concerned) and access to critical information has not been given.

1.9 In a recent study (commissioned by Somerset Council for Chard Area), information has been denied and redacted for the Town Council with no apparent attempt to consult, even at Officer-to-Officer level, despite the commitment of funding from the public purse and the obvious impacts being felt by our community. This course of action denies the direct input and experiences from our community and Officers – who have been on the ground during incidents of crisis proportion.

2. Moving Forward

2.1 Flooding cannot be eliminated, but it can and must be better managed. This will require **stronger coordination, improved transparency, a clear strategy and practical, deliverable action**.

2.2 Consequently, the Town Council has appointed a consultant to support in understanding risk and recommend approaches the council should take to prioritise flooding issues in the community.

2.3 A combined approach is recommended, including continued engagement with authorities, the development of a Flood Action Plan, further targeted investigations, and delivery of local mitigation measures.

3. Integrated Catchment Study Review

3.1 Following concerns that Somerset Council were not sharing information about flooding in Chard, a Freedom of Information request was submitted to Somerset Council along with several key questions (6th November 2025).

3.2 After a 3+ month delay, those questions were not <u>directly</u> answered but Somerset Council provided a redacted copy of their Integrated Catchment Study (ICS)– a feasibility study and modelling exercise to review **high level options for Chard**.

3.3 However, there are at least two potential problems here.

- A proper, in depth review of the ICS report was not possible **due to the significant number redacted sections**. This is considered to hinder proper engagement on flood risk issues between the Town Council (on behalf of our community) and Somerset Council.
- Widely known at Somerset Council is that CARG produced evidence that the current flood mapping -even on Gov.uk – is (beyond reasonable doubt) inaccurate in the Chard area, sometimes significantly for the purposes of remediation design and planning application considerations.

4. Key Findings At This Stage

4.1 The **ICS is a feasibility study using a hydraulic model** to assess flood mitigation options. If it is assumed that the base modelling **may** be faulty, then (like all modelling) "rubbish in gives rubbish out" is a possible scenario. CTC is not in a position to check this without going to the cost of developing our own model.

4.2 The report was heavily redacted (commercial reasons cited, although it is difficult to see how this would apply now but not in any final report), removing key information thus very much limiting its usefulness.

4.3 The ICS considers 13 high-level options (e.g. SuDS, attenuation, planning policy, resilience). Four main options were progressed for further consideration:

- Improved drainage maintenance
- SuDS and catchment basins
- Fluvial attenuation
- Property flood resilience

5. Limitations and Risks

5.1 Significant **data gaps and modelling uncertainties** were found in the ICS, despite the lack of technical and graphical information.

5.2 In addition:

- No clear funding commitments
- No Delivery programme - not even speculative
- Ownership or maintenance arrangements are not laid out. Could some of it be on Chard Town Council land ?

6. **Main Conclusions – Based On The Limited Information**

6.1 What is known of the ICS at this stage cannot be considered appropriate properly to assess options in any depth due to data gaps and uncertainties. Redactions suggest considerable sensitivities.

6.2 Preferred options are unlikely to address significant flooding events (beyond 1 in 50 years).

6.3 Strategic options (e.g. large attenuation basins) offer greatest benefit but likely highest cost, risk and uncertainty but, carefully located, could provide relief to s significant number of affected properties in times of greatest stress on the system.

6.4 Funding, Delivery and long-term management is uncertain due to the significant amount of redaction.

7 Where Does This Leave Chard Town Council ?

7.1 Without doubt, in the absence of collaboration at strategic level so far, considerations need to focus on matters such as value for money, lived experience of local people and our team who have on the ground, actual crisis-based evidence and experience of where scale and impact matters rather than undertaking a desktop exercise.

7.2 These are crucial inputs into deliverables which, at this stage, include a **local flood risk action plan or resilience strategy focussing on the highest priority areas**.

7.3 Focus on **low-cost, local interventions, particularly where these might align well with options detailed in the ICS**, could include:

- Temporary, natural flood management measures
- Small-scale planting and runoff reduction
- Community education on property flood resilience
- Strengthen **Local Planning Authority (Somerset Council) engagement** and having some tangible influence over development. Being heard matters, but the current tick box central government driven approach as implemented by Somerset Council appears set against a fear of Planning Appeal outcome. Sometimes the community can be forgiven for taking the view that it is housing at all cost, rather than getting the whole correct. For example, recent approvals include sites where there is significant evidence that, through this approach, Authorities are allowing proposals where evidence demonstrates that the new housing is in an area of significant flooding.

- There are some practical considerations such as **monitoring (e.g. groundwater)** to address large data gaps and/or inaccurate data. Investigation requires investment and, so far, the funding community has not been helpful in terms of matters such as specialist equipment.
- Being up front and collaborative across Multi-Agency Groups, including with relevant flood risk management authorities. **Is the community of Chard (via CTC) really not a stakeholder in considering flooding matters in Chard ?** Whilst confidentiality is paramount on some occasions – and Chard Town Council does not have a clean bill of health here – professional input from Officers in the depths of Somerset can be valuable.

8 Summary Of The Chard Flood & Drainage Scoping Report At Mount Hindrance, Bowling Club & Bonds Close Area

8.1 To address specific concerns raised by residents in the Bonds Close area and matters impacting the wider area of Town Council land ownership near Bonds Meadow, the Bowling Club and Bonds Close, Rheos Environmental Consulting was asked to deliver a scoping study, which sought to investigate the cause and impact of overland flow and springs through Town Council land and adjacent land and to explore possible opportunities to mitigate any identified problems.

Key Findings

- No internal property flooding reported, but residents are concerned about future development and potential future impact.
- Residents are concerned about the degree of flood water impact, particularly in relation to the ability to sell and/or insure property.
- Feedback from residents is that this is a significant flooding problem.
- Existing informal measures (e.g. woody dams, sandbags) are providing limited control and directing flow away from property towards a highway gully. Technically, this works well but should not be relied upon long term.
- Localised and wider area flooding mechanisms are very complex and not well represented in existing mapping, particularly:
    - ❖ Overland flow routes
    - ❖ Groundwater emergence and springs
    - ❖ Drainage systems and culverted systems

- ❖ The existence of multiple climate/rainfall zones – micro-climates. For example, there can be heavy rain in Crimchard, but it is dry in Forton Road. Local knowledge, experience and evidence support this.

- Local geology contributes to:
  - ❖ Rapid groundwater response
  - ❖ Variable and shifting spring emergence points
- Drainage systems are incompletely mapped and not fully understood, including many culverts, pipes and the shifting impact of old watercress systems.
- Patterns and impact severity are, even by observation alone, likely having an impact on local flood mechanisms since developments are now being partially or fully built out. Recent development is likely to be affecting how water moves through the area.

Development-Related Issues

- Proposed and recent developments may alter flow routes and groundwater behaviour. Chard Officers are not convinced that this is clearly understood at Higher Authority level when considering and assessing impact assessments undertaken by Applicants for major planning applications. The variable quality of information (e.g. sources such as Gov.uk) does not help this and local input can be crucial. **Put bluntly, there may be a systemic failure to adequately account for groundwater in assessment and design decisions**. This is likely to future impact neighbouring property and residential amenity.
- There is evidence of:
  - ❖ Taking the word of a Consultant for an Applicant at face value, rather than testing the validity. If this is based on incorrect flood mapping or the like then the previous “rubbish in - rubbish out” comment applies.
  - ❖ Lack of clarity on drainage features and maintenance. For example, Chard Officers are pressing organisations to claim ownership of an extremely large drainage pipe and infrastructure across a field. Residents have informed us that a young person can climb down into the chambers and access the pipe and that this used to be a regular “playground”.
  - ❖ Potential downstream flood impacts. This is massive in terms of assessment of major planning sites in and around Chard. If it is (perhaps

incorrectly) assessed that there is no problem to resolve, then the evidenced impact comes as a shock to some.

9 Chard Town Council Responsibilities & Powers

9.1 The Town Council has **no statutory powers or duties under Flood and Water Management Act 2010.**

9.2 However, where the Town Council owns land adjoining or containing watercourses (including ditches, culverts, streams or ordinary watercourses), it acts as a **Riparian Owner** as defined under Land Drainage Act 1991 and common law.

This includes:

- Maintaining watercourses to ensure free flow of water.
- Managing vegetation, debris and silt on beds and banks.
- **No obstruction or diversion of natural flow**.
- **Preventing actions that may increase flood risk to surrounding areas.**

The Town Council can also:

- Report flooding incidents to responsible authorities.
- Gather local evidence and support case-building.
- Liaise with residents and stakeholders.
- Support resilience and community preparedness initiatives.
- Work in partnership with statutory bodies, where appropriate.

9.3 Town Councils have some minor drainage maintenance powers under the Public Health Act 1936. These are **powers not duties or obligations**.

10 Recommendations With Regard To Our Land In the Wider Area Near Bonds Close

10.1 The ultimate solution here, as an affected landowner, must be to rely on the Higher Authorities and Multi-Agency Groups to investigate, design and promote schemes and bids for implementation where there is evidence and that evidence points to the need for action.

10.2 Once the need and proposed action has been determined, the scale and impact set against other priorities will, inevitably, be assessed. This is likely to involve benefit against cost. So high benefit schemes with low cost may be given a priority, assuming funding is available.

10.3 That is the perfect world scenario. How can this be achieved ?

- Continue to try to convene multi-agency meetings with relevant authorities.

- Perhaps undertake small scale groundwater monitoring and further surveys (e.g. inject local knowledge into drainage mapping – assuming people will listen).
- Strengthen engagement with planning authorities and developers.
- Implement local interventions, including:
  - ❖ Maintaining existing flow controls (bunds, debris dams, etc.).
  - ❖ Exploring natural flood management and planting.
  - ❖ Improving drainage and connectivity (for example, explore the possibility of a permanent or temporary connection to the highway gully).
- Promote community resilience and property-level protection.
- Investigate opportunities for upstream catchment measures. This is more intensive for Officer time and should be undertaken or led by the Higher Authority.

Scale & Impact

It is important to note that there are areas of Chard that have experienced significant, identified internal property flooding in recent events and at a much greater scale than at or near our land at the Bowling Club and near Bonds Close.

11 Funding & Delivery

11.1 Flood risk investment is generally based on:

- Internal property flooding.
- Risk to strategic highway networks and emergency access routes.
- Risk to major infrastructure.
- Schemes are subject to usual analysis involving benefits and cost.
- Delivery requires openness and coordination between relevant organisations and the community.

This means:

- Some local issues (such as surface water, groundwater, drainage exceedance - when the volume of water from rainfall or runoff exceeds the capacity of a drainage system) may cause concern to residents but not meet thresholds for funding or flood risk management authority intervention.
- Areas where intervention would be most effective (e.g. upstream) may take time and be technically challenging and costly to deliver.

This situation is exacerbated because **there is currently no clear strategy to address flood risk in Chard.**

Should one be developed ?

If so, should this be done by the Higher Authorities or by Chard Town Council ?

11.2 A combined approach is advised:

- Continue (with the continued support of the SRA and FWAG) to try to engage with relevant flood risk and planning authorities – supported by Member influence and/or escalation as required.
- Continue engagement with the local planning process via the Planning & Highways Committee, to highlight issues and data gaps in planning applications which may otherwise be overlooked.
- Attempt to engage directly with developers/landowners to identify opportunities to reduce flood risk, although some may see this as not to their advantage.
- Consider developing a Flood Action / Resilience Plan based on local knowledge, detailing the highest local priorities based on flood severity and engage with/communicate this to residents and other stakeholders.
- Delivery or support of local mitigation measures where possible.
- Undertake **targeted** investigations in **high priority** areas. For example, if the Full Council determine that Officers should continue discussions with our "landownership neighbours" at Bonds Close this would determine high priority status and Officers can pursue the investigation and implementation of, perhaps, shorter-term measures already identified in principle.
- Promote property flood resilience, community readiness and flood preparedness – preferably by a plan for Chard.
- Be aware that Chard Town Council, as a landowner, has responsibilities and it may be that our legal responsibilities conflict with a desire to assist in some areas.

12 Broad Conclusions

12.1 Flood risk and flooding is very complex, influenced by multiple factors and is unlikely to be completely prevented.

12.2 Current data and modelling are incomplete and exacerbates the lack of engagement between risk management authorities and Chard Town Council.

12.3 There is no clear delivery plan from responsible authorities for addressing flood risk.

12.4 A range of challenges including funding may limit or delay delivery of larger-scale solutions.

12.5 Local development may have a significant impact on local flood mechanisms without providing sufficient mitigation.

12.6 The Town Council has an important role in progressing local action, strengthening evidence, and influencing wider decisions. It can assist in:

- Setting out key findings from technical work.
- Clarifying the Council's role and limitations as a stakeholder, incorporating the role of landowner or steward.
- Identifying key challenges and risks.
- Engagement with or on behalf of others.

12.7 The Town Council has riparian responsibility for managing and maintaining watercourses and drainage infrastructure on Town Council land.

12.8 The Riparian Ownership essential and fundamental aspects are that, as landowner and steward, the Council obligation is to let the water pass unhindered. This conflicts with helping adjacent landowners (who must have the same approach) but there is potential to further investigate and a potential solution – but it would require approvals from other authorities.

12.9 The Town Council does **not** have responsibility for strategic flood management but has an important role in supporting local action, gathering evidence, and influencing wider decisions.

12.10 Somerset Council has recently announced a £50m flood resilience fund. The obvious question is, will any of this find a route to Chard ?

12.11 The requirements and procedures for developing local Resilience and a Flood Management Plan (RFMP) must work alongside other proposed policy work such as developing a Community Safety Plan and policies, safeguarding and the like, which is the subject of another agenda item at this Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are asked to approve all of the following RECOMMENDED actions:

A) Note the findings of the work undertaken to date.

B) Agree the proposed combined approach and focus efforts on priority areas of Chard, including Chard Town Council land (including but not exclusively

near the Bonds Meadow, Bowling Club and Bonds Close) and beyond that where the most significant flooding occurs.

C) If subsequently determined feasible, the Town Clerk progress the development of investigations into outline, smaller scale, targeted alleviation schemes (initially using the professional services budget) and report back to and update Council as appropriate.

D) Acknowledge the limitations and challenges identified in engaging with relevant organisations and the difficulty in obtaining key information.

E) Support continued engagement and escalation with relevant authorities.

F) The Town Clerk to consider requirements, procedure and funding for developing a local Resilience and Flood Management Plan (RFMP) and identify matters to report back to Council.

G) Within the RFMP, to work with the local and wider community organisations to ensure a cohesive, local strategy and community-based approach to RFMP planning, consultation, implementation and, particularly, actions and support for the community in times of crisis.

David Bell
Chief Executive & Town Clerk

The valuable assistance of our Consultant (Rheos Environmental Consulting) is gratefully acknowledged.

Background Paper **Item 2026/103**

Community Safety in Chard

Including an Update Report - CCTV & Anti-Social Behaviour

Full Council 22nd June 2026

1. Background

1.1 Members will be aware of discussions and decisions to supplement CCTV coverage in Chard. Originally, a member of the community and his team approached the Council and offered to contribute skills, expertise and funding to an identified, smaller scheme, but there has been difficulty in progressing this.

1.2 In parallel, discussions about a much wider area (including the town centre and our parks & open spaces) have been taking place with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Local Neighbourhood Policing (LNP) and a range of interested stakeholders.

1.3 The outcome of the initial meeting with the PCC was encouraging. As a starting point, the PCC arranged for the LNP to be part of discussions with my Operations Team to drive forward a strategy for dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in our parks and town centre. However, since then it has been difficult for the LNP to attend strategic meetings and help progress some elements.

1.4 Due to the significant delays externally and the growing workload of my Operations Team, I decided to engage the wide range of contacts and skills of our Stakeholder Liaison Officer to attempt to drive this forward at pace.

1.5 Without doubt, ASB in our town centre, parks and open spaces is of concern to many people in our community. Unfortunately, many aspects can be sensationalised or over-stated by television and news reports, but it can not be denied that (as nationally in many towns) ASB exists. This takes several forms.

1.6 Starting with the approved Chard Town Council Strategy, many complaints via correspondence, meetings and also feedback at events and planned programmes driven by the community, it has been possible to put together a much better understanding of how these situations impact our town and our community.

1.7 Key Findings from the surveys and updated Community Plan 2026 include:

- Concerns around safety, drugs and anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks and at night
- Many young people feel safest at home or with friends, with few dedicated youth spaces.
- Strong demand for a safe, supervised youth club or centre.

- Requests for more affordable activities, sports facilities, creative opportunities and places simply to “hang out”.
- Parents consistently prioritised safe, staffed spaces and continuation of existing youth provision.

1.8 Many members of our community take a detailed interest in the Town Council work. However, even those with only a passing interest are unlikely to have failed to notice the debates and decisions, the press reporting and the actions taken over the last year or so with regard to bolstering and improving the provision for the younger people of our town.

1.9 The Hive Young People’s Centre has been established in the former youth club building (now leased by the Town Council) and, after a super-quick start over only a few months, is becoming well embedded within the community as a key element of our local youth provision. Through the work undertaken by partners and the wider community during this process, there is now a stronger shared understanding between local organisations and community groups of the range of youth provision currently available in Chard and what the “wants & needs” of our young people are.

1.10 This work has helped place youth voice at the centre of local progress and considerations, which remains a core principle of the Community Plan.

1.11 By working with community groups, such surveys and groundwork directly inform our work as a Town Council, including but not exclusively:

- Participating in local youth service planning and funding with evidence for funding discussions. The Town Council has a Service Level Agreement with The Hive.
- Aims to strengthen partnership working between schools, youth providers and community groups
- Ensure decisions are grounded in lived experience, from the interactions with our young people at events, School Council and the like.

1.12 There are many aspects to Community Safety and addressing anti-social behaviour. Whilst a main thread is clearly social unacceptability, one recalls the anti-smoking drive where smoking was originally viewed by clinicians as good for health, it is as clear that measures will be needed to be in place to make safety paramount and anti-social behaviours unacceptable.

1.13 With this in mind, my Stakeholder Liaison Officer has undertaken a range of meetings and discussions to bring, potentially, further organisations onboard.

1.14 The development of our community online directory, soon to be going live, driven by evidence in our Community Plan (with 19 participating organisations) will assist

greatly as a Chard Health & Well-Being Platform but more and wider, continued involvement and engagement is crucial to success.

2. Community Safety – An Outline

2.1 Community safety is any activity that is designed to prevent or reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and reassure our communities, so they are safer and feel safer. It incorporates but is not exclusively road safety, which is of great interest to many of our community.

2.2 To improve on the current situation, the Town Council could enhance community safety functions by the development of a policy and a comprehensive strategy for implementation by working in a facilitation role in partnership with organisations in our community and wider area stakeholders.

2.3 Examples of such organisations are:

- Avon and Somerset Police
- Safer Somerset Partnership
- Somerset Council CCTV Management
- Yeovil Crime Reduction Team (Pub/Shop Watch)
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Somerset Environmental Health
- One Team Early Intervention
- Somerset Integrated Care System and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Crimestoppers
- Licensing authorities
- SARI – Stand Against Racism and Inequality
- Public Health

and continue working with others in our community, such as:

- Community support organisations
- Schools and education providers
- The Hive and all services (existing and proposed) for younger people
- Housing providers
- Voluntary organisations

3. Possible Ways Forward To Support The Wider Area Including Parks & Open Spaces

3.1 Further development of policy focuses on core initiatives of community safety as identified in Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2029 and the most up to date Somerset Community Safety Plan 2025.

3.2 Development and implementation of strategy for not only CCTV (including deployment, day-to-day management and operation of joined up, monitored CCTV systems on an area-wide approach) but wider aspects of community safety.

3.3 It is important to remember that CCTV is only one tool in the process. Several other matters arose in consideration of the evolving, approved Chard Town Council Strategy and arise on a regular basis.

3.4 Such matters include community requests for, or to be involved in, the following:

- Street & other public realm lighting.
- Safe Places, warm places and safe locations.
- Measures to combat Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- Anti-bullying.
- Herbert Protocol Scheme

  [The Herbert Protocol is a national scheme designed to help Police and Carers quickly locate vulnerable adults, particularly people with dementia, if they go missing.]
- Reporting of crime – and how reporting can be encouraged and improved.
- Provision and mapping of Defibrillators and bleed kits.
- Shop Watch / Pub Watch
- Night-time economy (NTE) Activities that take place commonly after 6pm and until 6am. For example, getting to and from activities in a safer manner.
- Environmental Safety – for example, discouraging drug paraphernalia, broken glass, animal faeces and malicious damage within our parks and open spaces.
- Community Days hosted by a range of organisations – thereby being true community days.
- Simple but effective volunteer-based reporting and action schemes such as Community Speed Watch – a matter where we are awaiting Police support at several sites across Chard.
- The involvement of existing organisations in various Multi-Agency Groups. For example, Emergency Preparedness and Flooding Issues.

4. Possible Outcomes Of Working Together For The Benefit Of The Community

4.1 Police and Crime:

Police and Crime Plan 2024 – 2029:

https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan-2024-2029/

- Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing. Town Council, Police, Crime Reduction Team and business owners/leaders working in partnership in the community, creating a visible, united front against crime and helping support community cohesion.
- Reduce violent crime through deterrence and detection to aid evidence and prosecutions.
- Prevent crime by working together with other organisations and the public to build a safer community. Such a project is likely to enable identification of offenders, enabling them to be tracked down (even potentially across our adjacent neighbouring towns and communities) and assist in prevention of further incidents.
- Support victims by improving community relations and signposting to help, possibly even being part of the evidence chain to assist prosecution and re-establish lives and livelihoods for victims in the community.
- Improve standards of policing to aid local resource allocations and aid investigations through shared, timely intelligence.

Community Safety Planning in Chard

4.2 Planning in Chard should dovetail with the work of our partners, who work across the Somerset wider area.

For example, Somerset Community Safety Plan 2025

https://www.somerset.gov.uk/health-safety-and-wellbeing/safer-somerset-partnership/community-safety-plan/

4.3 There are many aspects in common, including:

- Protect people from the harm of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence: This is the most common crime reported in our town.
- Improve response to Serious Violence. Closer partnership with Avon and Somerset Police and secure, timely intelligence sharing.
- Work together to manage Neighbourhood Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour leading to improved community engagement, timely use of data and intelligence to reduce Neighbourhood Crime in identified areas and reduce

Anti-Social behaviour in our public realm such as our town centre area, parks and open spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is RECOMMENDED that Council AGREES to:

A) Continue to work in partnership with strategic and local organisations to promote Community Safety in Chard.

B) Develop a Chard Community Safety Policy, led by a Council Committee and reported back to Full Council.

C) Develop a Chard Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan to implement a Community Safety Policy to reflect local community safety improvements and the Chard Town Council Strategy agreed in 2025.

D) Continue to promote and strengthen resilience and safety in the community.

David Bell
Chief Executive & Town Clerk

Project Lead: Ingrid Edginton
Stakeholder Liaison Officer