

Trull Parish Council - July 2026 Report

From Somerset Cllrs Dawn Johnson and Habib Farbahi

Civic Square at Orchard Grove

The opening of Orchard Grove's new Civic Square on **11 July 2026** marked an important milestone in creating a vibrant and connected neighbourhood. It was wonderful to see so many residents and families come together to celebrate a space designed for community events, recreation and social interaction. As Orchard Grove continues to grow, we said we are looking forward to the delivery of a dedicated community hall, which will provide a welcoming place where residents of all ages can meet, build friendships, support local groups and enjoy activities together. This will help create a strong, inclusive and thriving community at the heart of Orchard Grove for many years to come.

Ignite Somerset - driving economic growth and investment

The Ignite Somerset Conference 2026, sponsored by NatWest Bank and held on June 30, 2026, brought together businesses, investors, public sector leaders, education providers and community partners to accelerate Somerset's economic growth. Delivered by Somerset Council in partnership with the Somerset Chamber of Commerce and the Somerset Growth Board, the event positioned the county as a competitive destination for investment and enterprise.

The conference generated clear momentum for attracting inward investment, expanding high-value employment and strengthening key sectors across Somerset. By aligning priorities across business, government and education, it created a platform to convert opportunity into measurable economic outcomes, including increased investment flows, job creation and enhanced productivity. Participants committed to coordinated action, with Somerset Council, local authorities, businesses, investors, universities, colleges and the voluntary sector agreeing to drive forward a shared growth agenda. This collaboration is set to unlock new development opportunities, support business expansion and build a more resilient local economy.

Ignite Somerset also catalysed the next phase of delivery - strengthening investment pipelines, accelerating business support, and ensuring growth translates into higher-quality jobs, improved public services and stronger communities.

By bringing together decision-makers and investors, Ignite Somerset is positioning the county to compete more effectively on a national and international stage, laying the groundwork for sustained economic growth and long-term prosperity.

Firepool Regeneration & Inward Investment

Senior representatives from the House of Hiranandani, one of India's leading luxury real estate developers, visited Taunton on 7 July to explore the Firepool regeneration project following an invitation from MP Gideon Amos. The delegation was welcomed by Cllr Habib Farbahi and Somerset Council's Economic Development team, who showcased Firepool's potential as one of the South West's most significant regeneration opportunities, creating new homes, jobs, leisure facilities and high-quality public spaces. The visit also highlighted Taunton's many strengths, including its excellent education, healthcare, workforce, transport links and attractive environment. The delegation's interest is a positive endorsement of Taunton's growing reputation as an investment destination, with Somerset Council preparing to appoint a development partner later this year to help deliver this transformational project for the benefit of future generations.

Trull Party in the Park

There's a reason the Trull Party in the Park is a biennial event. It's a whole community effort to create this very special day for residents across the area. Dawn as a member of the Committee for over 20 years extend her thanks to all who have worked hard to ensure the day was such a success. It starts with meetings a year in advance to ensure plans are made and bookings in place, then there is lots of paperwork, insurances and financial business to administer all culminating with the work to set up the day before and take down after the event. So many people go above and beyond to create a very special community day. It was probably the hottest Party in the Park ever, so thank you to all who committed to support the day and attended from far and wide. We look forward to creating some further local community event days in years to come...it's very special to see a community uniting in celebrating togetherness.

Infrastructure & Transport

- International recognition for the M5 Junction 26 Chelston Link project, winning a national Project Excellence & Innovation Award.
- Full Business Case submitted to Government for A38 Major Road Network improvements.
- Whitnell Corner road safety improvement scheme has commenced to replace the junction with a new roundabout.

Flooding & Environment

- £50 million secured from DEFRA to improve flood resilience, natural flood management and community protection across Somerset.

- Ham Hill Country Park and Rainbow Way housing development received countryside awards.
- Non-black plastic plant pots can now be recycled in Somerset's Bright Blue Bag.

Education, SEND & Young People

- £5.3 million proposed to strengthen SEND services, reduce EHCP delays and improve support for children and young people.
- Somerset pupils recognised through the Children's Parliament competition.
- Imagine the Possibilities SEND employment programme won national recognition.
- Consultations continue on expanding specialist SEND provision and wider SEND reforms.

Communities & Council Services

- Residents encouraged to take part in the 2027/28 Budget Consultation and the Somerset Local Plan 2045 consultation.
- Council Tax, Benefits and Business Rates systems are being merged into one countywide system; some online services remain temporarily unavailable.
- Bridgwater Library has reopened following major repairs; Wellington Library has launched a new Loyalty Card scheme.
- Freedom Leisure has taken over the operation of five East Somerset leisure centres.

Business & Economy

- New free drone skills bootcamp helping Somerset businesses develop advanced technical skills.

Health & Community Safety

- Children's Services and Adult Social Care continue improvement programmes following Ofsted and CQC inspections.
- Campaigns continue to raise awareness of domestic abuse and gambling harm.
- Refugee Week celebrated the contribution of displaced people to Somerset communities.

Useful Contacts

- Somerset Council: 0300 123 2224

- Roads, potholes, streetlights, traffic issues and roadworks:
www.somerset.gov.uk
- Bins and recycling: www.somerset.gov.uk
- Budget & Local Plan consultations: somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com
- Travel updates: Travel Somerset (Facebook and X)
- Somerset Domestic Abuse Service: 0800 694 9999 |
www.somersetdomesticabuse.org.uk