

Report on Somerset Council's new rules regarding Street Trading Consent by PPC Clerk 4.6.2023

This report is being given publicly by PPC to make anyone who may be affected aware of the new Street Trading licensing laws introduced in March 2023 for Somerset West and Taunton.

In January 2023, Somerset West & Taunton Council opened a consultation on a proposed new street trading licensing policy. On the 20th March 2023, Somerset West & Taunton Council's Licensing Committee adopted the new Street Trading Licensing Policy which came into immediate effect.

Somerset Council have advised PPC that they will take appropriate enforcement action against anyone who does not have the necessary Street Trading licence, who is trading illegally. This enforcement was highlighted recently in local news on TV and in the Free Press.

Somerset Council advise that street trading consent is required if you are offering items or 'articles' for sale in the street, including food and drink.

'The street' is defined as any road, footway, beach or other area that the public have access to without payment and therefore includes privately owned land.

Anyone over 17 can apply for a street trading consent.

Somerset Council advise that street trading consent is not needed if you are:

- selling items on foot and always on the move i.e. as a pedlar under a licence issued by the Police
- a market trader operating as part of a licensed market venue
- a news vendor selling only newspapers and periodicals

There are other exemptions including:

Non-commercial events: events that are community-based and run for non-commercial purposes, such as a fete or school fund raising activity.

However, where any of the profit of the trading is retained by the trader for private gain, and not passed to the organisers of the event for use in, or by, the community concerned then the activity is not exempt and will require a consent.

For more information regarding Street Trading Consent in West Somerset and Taunton, please see <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/business-economy-and-licences/licensing/street-trading/?district=Somerset+West+and+Taunton>

Somerset Council is inviting residents and businesses to comment on its updated Licensing Policy.

A consultation is now open for six weeks until 13 July 2023, and you can have your say here:

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/licensing-policy/>.

