

Bonfires are not illegal in the Mendip geographic area. However, residents should be considerate to their neighbours when having bonfires. Smoke can aggravate the symptoms of vulnerable people and cause people distress. Additionally, the risk of uncontrolled fires places unnecessary demand on the fire service.

Before you decide to have a bonfire, please also consider the following:

- Can the garden waste be composted, or taken to a Somerset Waste Partnership site?
- If you produce garden waste regularly you may wish to take advantage of the Garden Waste Collection Service
- Before lighting a bonfire check that neighbours do not have their washing out
- Make sure materials to be burnt are dry, so that they burn quickly and produce less smoke
- Aim to burn material as quickly as possible and never leave the fire unattended
- Never burn materials that are likely to cause dark smoke, or strong smells, such as plastics, rubber, foams, painted products etc

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding bonfires or any other environmental matter, this has to be done following the Somerset Council procedure which is available via the site below. The Parish Council has no powers to act in any other way regarding bonfires or other environmental matters.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/noise-smoke-and-other-nuisance/?district=Mendip>