

Parish report from your District Councillors

July 3rd 2023

Town and Parishes Forum

SHDC will be holding an online Town and Parish Council Forum at 6.p.m. on Wednesday 26 July 2023. This will be the start of conversations with our Towns and Parishes with the initial focus for discussions being on developing our priorities for the next four-year term. An Invite has already been sent to Clerks, with instructions on how to join.



Prioritising climate and biodiversity action

We have pledged £40,000 to support the work of [Sustainable South Hams](#) and the formation of a new council advisory panel for climate matters. Our Executive has agreed to give the substantial grant to Sustainable South Hams to continue their district-wide work in fighting climate change. The organisation supports grassroots climate projects across the South Hams, sharing knowledge and inspiration between its member groups. Our new Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory Group will use specialist and expert knowledge to support ours and wider community's climate ambitions. Its core aim will be helping develop district-wide projects that have an influence on lowering carbon emissions.



More support with the Cost of Living

With the cost of living crisis still biting for many residents across the District, we are looking at more ways to get support to those who need it through our Household Support Fund. The Executive Committee have agreed to take immediate steps to move quickly to get support payments to those who need it the most. Used to help cover basics essential living costs like food, energy, water and other necessities the households may need, we are spending £168,598 from the Department of Work and Pensions to help residents until the end of summer, with a further £206,064 for the winter period. An additional surplus of £48,245 from the Council Tax Support Fund will be used to top-up the existing Exceptional Household Fund which supports residents receiving Council Tax Reduction and are still struggling to pay their Council Tax.



My Place, My Views

Last summer we launched our 'My Place, My Views' survey. The results told us about our residents' experiences accessing facilities and services where they live. The views shared with us, together with the information collected in Neighbourhood Plans and the mandates of our elected councillors, will now directly inform our future approach to our Joint Local Plan (JLP).



There are several ways to explore the talking points raised from My Place, My Views:

- Use our [interactive dashboard](#) to view what residents said about the areas they live in by clicking on our interactive maps, graphs, and tables.
- View our [Future Talking Points](#) report which provides our overview of the key recurring topics and themes raised during the consultation which will inform our future work including future conversations about the Joint Local Plan.
- View the [original consultation page](#) to see comments and our Questions and Answers page.

New online service to help tenants

Tenants of all types of landlord across South Hams are now able to report housing disrepair issues through our new and simplified service. As part of our ongoing commitment to improve housing standards across the District, tenants can benefit from a new online form, making the process quicker and easier to report a housing repair issue. They can use the online service to upload photos and will then be provided with a clear point of contact for advice and support. Tenants can expect a response to their enquiry within two weeks, with emergency situations dealt with more quickly. This new online service supports our work in ensuring that housing issues are continuously monitored and resolved in a timely manner. Where appropriate, we will continue to inspect properties and contact landlords directly, working closely with Registered Providers to report and track the progress of any issues on the tenant's behalf.



Active Devon Volunteer Award

Nominations are now open for the Active Devon Volunteer Awards. For the second year running, the awards will recognise people across Devon who go the extra mile, giving up their time and energy to make a big difference to the health and wellbeing of others in their local community, helping them to be more active.

