

Parish report from your District Councillors

15th September 2025

Local Government Reorganisation update

On Tuesday we held the first of our resident engagement events when the team headed to Shaugh Prior Village Hall. With over 30 people attending, there were a lot of questions and comments from residents. Here are some of the key points raised:



- Desire that whatever happens, it is hoped that services will improve. In response: it was set out that whatever happens to the structures of local government, it won't fix the ongoing underfunding of services.
- View that it seems the Government principles are not being followed by all councils – for example Plymouth and Exeter where proposed populations would fall well short of the 500,000 criteria. In response: it was confirmed that since government set out the criteria, they have indicated that where there is a strong business case, the criteria could be considered flexibly.
- Suggestion that consideration should be given for the South Hams to put in a proposal for a '5' and a '5' which would be the northern proposal and the current southern (and Torbay) proposal which also includes Plymouth. In response: it was explained that Plymouth has not had any discussions with us about such a proposal and seemed focused on only taking in the 13 parishes set out in their interim plan
- We were asked if we felt our engagement with residents should have happened earlier like Plymouth. In response: it was set out that we felt it important to first seek the views of residents via a survey and to come to talk to residents when we had been able to further explore the 4-5 proposal. If we came out too soon, we wouldn't have as many answers for residents as we do now – and of course we are still working up the detailed submission for Government.
 - Attendees wanted the opportunity to see the submission to Government before it's decided on. In response: it was confirmed that it would be a publicly available document published before November committee meetings.

A number of daytime drop-in sessions have been arranged. These do not require booking.

- 22 September – South Brent Village Hall (side hall). 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 20 September – Ugborough Village Hall, Ugborough. 10 a.m. to noon

Devon County Council LGR events

The following engagement events led by Devon County Council will take place this month.



- Market Square, Totnes - Thursday 25 September, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Kingsbridge Market, Kingsbridge - Tuesday 30 September, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fake QR codes found in our car parks

We've discovered more fraudulent QR code stickers on some of our Pay & Display machines. These QR codes take you to a scam website.



Messages for residents:

- Download the official PayByPhone app ONLY from trusted sources: [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)
 - We never use QR codes in our car parks.
- Our teams check machines and signs daily for fake stickers.
 - For more advice on safe parking, [visit our website](#).

Please share our advice to help residents being caught out.

•

•

South Hams Energy Assembly

Sustainable South Hams, South Dartmoor Community Energy and South Hams District Council are excited to be hosting the 2025 South Hams Energy Assembly alongside Octopus Energy.



The event aims to connect, support and inspire action to accelerate the transition to energy resilience in the South Hams.

Sustainable South Hams is bringing together community organisations, councillors, rural businesses, housing associations and other local decision makers and interested individuals, together with experts from local energy organisations, installers and related companies.

The event takes place on 18 October at Kingsbridge Community College.

Visual Arts South West survey

Visual Arts South West www.vasw.org.uk has asked SHDC to support them in amplifying a vital piece of work for the South West's visual arts sector.



As part of our Council Plan's priority to develop an Arts and Culture Strategy for the South Hams, we are encouraging you to please promote the 2025 Visual Arts South West survey to all your local arts and culture networks, organisations, groups and individuals in your Wards and communities.

The results of this survey will provide a helpful evidence base for future arts support in the South Hams. We have a key role to play in supporting this survey to help produce a regional report setting clear priorities for the visual arts, backed by robust data to influence policy, funding, and investment. The data will be able to provide area-specific insights to support local planning and cultural strategies.

Police Crime Commissioner invites community groups to bid for share of crime prevention funding

Community groups, charities and voluntary organisations in Devon and Cornwall are being invited to apply for a share of £330,000 in funding to help tackle burglary, theft and their root causes.



The money is being distributed through the Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Grant Scheme (£200,000) and the Police Property Act Fund (£115,300), which uses proceeds from the sale of seized goods. Grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded to projects that prevent crime, support victims, or address issues such as substance misuse, antisocial behaviour, and youth diversion.

Find out more including details of how to apply via the We are Devon Community Foundation [here](#).



Licensing Policy Consultation

South Hams District Council is now undertaking a consultation process to review its Statement of Licensing Policy. As such, we would like to hear your views.

Under the Licensing Act 2003, we, as the licensing authority, are responsible for licensing premises within the district for:

- The sale of alcohol, for consumption both on and off the premises
- The provision of regulated entertainment
- The sale of hot food and hot (non-alcoholic) drink late at night Premises such as pubs, clubs, restaurants, hotels and grocers/newsagents selling alcohol require a licence under this legislation, as do late night takeaways (selling hot food and drinks between 11pm and 5am).

We are required to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy which sets out our approach to licensing in the district. The policy gives clear guidance of our policies and expectations to licence holders, applicants, and people who may comment on premises licence applications or seek reviews of licences. Legally, we are obliged to consider our Statement of Licensing Policy when deciding opposed licence applications or applications for review. If any of our decisions are appealed to a Magistrates Court, the court must also consider the policy when deciding whether the original decision was correct.

There are four Licensing Objectives under the Licensing Act 2003, which are:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm
- The Licensing Authority can only have regard to matters that relate to one or more of the Licensing Objectives listed above when determining its Statement of Licensing Policy.

How to respond: The consultation provides our existing policy and our draft policy showing our amendments along with an opportunity to give us your views. Please see the link <https://shlicensingpolicy.commonplace.is/> Alternatively, you can e-mail your comments to licensing@swdevon.gov.uk.

The consultation runs until Tuesday 30 September 2025.

We will consider all the responses and amend the proposed policy as appropriate. The updated policy will then be considered by the Licensing Committee and by full Council.

Lithium batteries

We're asking residents to take old specialist lithium batteries for things like vapes or power tools to take them to their local recycling centre when disposing of them.

Messages for residents:

- These types of batteries have caused fires on our waste and recycling vehicles and at our depots when mixed in with general rubbish or recycling.
- You can carry on recycling common household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D and 9V batteries you might use in household appliances, remote controls, clocks and other things around the home. Put these in Recycling Box 2
- The following types of batteries should not be put in your household recycling boxes, and should be taken to your local recycling centre when you need to dispose of them:
 - Rechargeable lithium-ion cells – like those in vapes and e-cigarettes, electric shavers, laptops, mobile phones, or power tool packs
 - Industrial or high-capacity batteries
 - Damaged, leaking or corroded batteries of any kind



Avian Flu

As a Local Authority, we collect dead birds on public land if they pose a public health concern. Instances of dead birds can be reported through our [website](#) where locations will be triaged as to public health risk.

Reporting dead birds is important for agencies to understand how diseases are spread. You can report any sightings [here](#).

England is in an avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ) with mandatory biosecurity measures. All bird keepers must follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu.

Further information on the biosecurity measures can be found [on the Gov.UK website](#).

Winter Fuel Payment scam

Criminals are targeting older and vulnerable people with fake texts, emails, and phone calls pretending to be from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or HMRC. The scammers claim you need to "apply" for your Winter Fuel Payment and try to trick you into sharing personal or bank details.



Advice from Devon and Cornwall Police:

- If you're eligible, your Winter Fuel Payment is paid automatically - you do not need to apply.
- The government will never ask for your bank details by text, email, or phone.
- Do not click on suspicious links or share personal information.
- Block and delete scam messages straight away.

If residents think they have been targeted:

- Contact your bank immediately - you can also dial 159 to connect to your bank's fraud department.
- Report suspicious texts by forwarding to 7726, phishing emails to report@phishing.gov.uk, or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.
- If in doubt, check with a trusted friend, [Citizens Advice](#), or [Age UK](#) before responding. Stay safe and protect your details!

Please help spread the word in your communities.

Reusing is as important as recycling

While recycling is very important to make sure that things you don't need anymore can be used again by someone else, have you thought about what you could reuse yourself?

Recycle Devon has [a whole page full of information on reusing and upcycling](#), including great advice on:

- [Repair cafes and fixing things](#)
- [Upcycling](#)
- [Refill and zero waste shops](#)
- [Loving your clothes](#)

Win-win with SeaMoor lotto

Please help spread the word about the SeaMoor Lotto. Residents who take part will support a good cause and be in with the chance of winning weekly cash prizes of up to £25,000. Entries made before Saturday 27 September, could also win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card, all for just £1 a week!

SeaMoor Lotto is a lottery for the people, by the people. It's a fun way to help good causes without giving up precious time.

Tickets are just £1 in the weekly draw, and you can choose exactly which good cause you would like your money to go to. More of your money goes to your chosen cause than with any other major lottery – you can see the exact breakdown, where every penny goes, on our website.

[Find out more on our website](#)