

**Diptford Parish Council meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – App. 1**  
**Parish Councils update from South Hams Cllrs. Pannell & Smerdon**

**COVID-19** Following confirmation of the second national lockdown SHDC has shifted from 'recovery' phase back into 'response'. Some officers are now working on business grants, community support and enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions. Over the past week SHDC has sent updates to towns and parishes, the business sector and the wider community on developments across a range of issues and will continue to do so on a regular basis.

SHDC is working in collaboration with The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to carry out COVID-secure spot checks on business premises where we are responsible for the enforcement of health and safety legislation. This includes businesses like shops, pubs and leisure centres that local communities use and are crucial to the local economy. The activity will check that our local businesses and respective duty holders are managing their COVID response and control measures in line with current government guidelines, and protecting staff and customers. We will use a variety of methods to conduct this activity from telephone calls to visits to premises. Where businesses are not managing the risk action, will range from the provision of advice and education with the last resort of formal action. If you needed further information, please contact [environmental.health@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:environmental.health@swdevon.gov.uk).

### **BUSINESS GRANTS FOR SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Following the Government announcement of the National Lockdown, there are **two types of Business Grants** that the Council will now be responsible for administering. These are detailed below:-

- Main business grants for businesses mandated to close and who have a rateable value business premise (**Local Restrictions Support Grant**)
- A Discretionary business grant scheme for businesses who don't have a rateable value business premise and to help those businesses which, while not legally forced to close, are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 (**Additional Restrictions Grant**)
- See SHDC website for further details
- **Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme**

The Government has launched its Track and Trace Hardship Payment Scheme. This is when people who have been advised they need to isolate for 14 days and are unable to work are eligible for a £500 payment. There is an additional discretionary scheme which allows local authorities to make payments for people who are not in receipt of benefits, but are unable to work from home, if their employer is not able to pay them sick pay and self-isolation will cause them hardship.

- **Finance.** We have been awarded a further £100,000 funding by the Government towards our Covid costs. Leisure Centres were open across the district but have had to close again during this second lockdown. We have been told we will receive some funding towards the costs incurred by the closure of our leisure centres and the restrictions on numbers using them. Up to now we have received nothing for this as ours are contracted out, whereas councils which run their own centres have been fully reimbursed. We don't yet know how much we will receive.
- **WASTE SERVICES.** The introduction of the new recycling system with plastic boxes replacing bags has been delayed until March, because the crisis has halted construction of the specialised lorries needed, in Ireland, and the building of the new waste transfer station at Ivybridge. The new plastic recycling containers and leaflets will be going out to householders in January/February.
- **COLLECTION ROUND CHANGES** were introduced from the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> **October** to prepare for the introduction of the new service. You may be aware that there have been **significant teething problems** with some of the rounds. It seems the brown bin and recycling bag collections are causing more problems than the grey bins. If a collection is missed the householder should report it via the South Hams Council website the following day. [www.southhams.gov.uk/report a missed collection](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/report-a-missed-collection)
- The contractors have three working days to remedy the situation. If this is not done please contact Peter or Guy. The Contractors are bringing in additional staff and vehicles to address the multiple problems
- **You can find your collection day here:** [www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday) SHDC is offering an officer to attend (virtual) Parish Council meetings to brief members on the proposed new collection system, how it will operate, and the changes it will bring.

### **Devon's householders have the chance to help the country become net-zero by joining Devon Climate Emergency's solar panel group buying scheme.**

DCE's latest project is Solar Together and they are offering homeowners the chance to buy high quality solar PV more cheaply than by simply buying alone. Led by Devon County Council, the scheme is partnered by 10 of Devons planning authorities, who are all members of DCEs Response Group. If you are interested, the first step is to register with [www.solartogether.co.uk](http://www.solartogether.co.uk)

### **A helping hand for cold homes**

Eligible residents, who are living without gas heating, are being offered the chance to benefit from free gas central heating from SHDC and WDBC. The Councils are targeting residents of households who are struggling to pay heating bills and living in a cold home with no gas supply. The project is part of the wider council target of reducing the areas carbon emissions by replacing old and inefficient heating systems. South Dartmoor Community Energy will be able to give advice to households on energy suppliers and energy efficiency. To find out more go to [www.southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills)

## **Help with insulation and energy efficiency**

SHDC has been awarded £336,750 from the Government's Green Homes Grant scheme for 2020/21. The money has to be spent by 31 March 2021. The capital grant must be used to raise the energy efficiency of low income and low Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rated households, through insulation measures and low carbon heating, such as heat pumps. SHDC will also allocate £200,000 from the Council's approved Disabled Facilities Grant/Regulatory Reform Order 2020/21 capital budget, to support work to reduce fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions, with any underspend of this allocation being carried forward into 2021/22. It is also planned to allocate the sum of £20,000 from the Climate Change and Biodiversity Earmarked Reserve, to support delivery of the Green Homes Grant scheme, bidding for future funding, and work to improve the energy efficiency of the existing private sector housing stock, in line with the Council's emerging Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. We will let you know more details when we have them.

## **Potential grants for on-street electric charging points**

There is funding potentially available from central government for 75% of the capital cost for on-street charging points from a £20m pot for 20/21. Many authorities have used a technology that allows lamp-posts to support EV charge points, especially in residential areas with no off-street parking. Devon County Council is working on a bid to support deployment of on-street chargepoints so would welcome any indications of interest which will help determine appropriate locations and, importantly, evidence of public demand. If there are any groups of residents interested please contact Cllr. John McKay ([Cllr.John.McKay@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.John.McKay@southhams.gov.uk)) or Alastair Mumford at Devon County Council([alastair.mumford@devon.gov.uk](mailto:alastair.mumford@devon.gov.uk)). However, the bid is predicated on DCC being supportive of on-street chargepoints and Alastair is awaiting a position paper from colleagues in Transport Planning which would enable the bid.