

## Diptford Parish Council Meeting

### App. 2 SHDC Update

#### Covid 19 rates rising again

Cases of the virus are rising again across our local area, and we would ask all residents to take care. Booster doses have become available, and we would urge all those eligible to take these up, and any residents still not vaccinated for the first or second time to seriously consider doing so.

#### Waste Collection

The situation continues to be challenging, the current difficulties faced by many Councils across the country around staffing levels, particularly drivers, continue to impact on FCCs ability to collect our waste and recycling. **Please continue to register missed collections through the system online or by phone, as this will assist in holding our contractors to account.**

The brown bin service remains suspended and In the light of FCC's ongoing staffing issues the Executive has taken the decision that it will not resume until the Spring. Sustainable South Brent is happy to accept garden waste at their composting centre at The Marsh on Sunday mornings. It can also be taken to Devon County Council recycling centres.

Several SHDC councillors have been on a tour of Chelson Meadow Materials Recovery Facility (MURF) at Plymouth, where residents' co-mingled (mixed together) recycling is taken to be sorted and recycled. This gave a wider insight and understanding of these materials' journey from the kerbside, the sorting process and showed the high quality materials that our residents are involved in producing. We can reassure residents that everything is properly and efficiently recycled, and the sorted and baled waste is sold on for further reprocessing. None goes to landfill.

#### Housing Team Update - Rough Sleepers



South Hams District Council will be operating the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol from now until 1 March 2022. During this time, we would be grateful if you could let us know of anyone sleeping rough and advise them to contact a member of the Housing Team (on 01803 861234 for South Hams during office hours or 01803 867034 outside office hours regarding the provision of

accommodation over this period. The Housing Team will arrange for an outreach worker to make contact with them. This is particularly important during periods of severe weather.

Secondly, it is the time of year again when all Local Authorities are required to submit a 'snapshot' estimated figure on the number of rough sleepers in the local area during a specified night between 1 October- 30 November.

West Devon & South Hams will be submitting an estimate based on the number of people believed to be sleeping rough on the night of Monday 8 November. We will also conduct a 'snapshot' count in Totnes as our main hotspot for people sleeping rough. We choose to submit an estimate as the most accurate way of arriving at a

number because due to the large geographic areas of both South Hams and West Devon, a full count would not be able to encompass all the areas involved.

Instead we work with partnership agencies such as the police, rough sleeper drop-in centres and park rangers to collate a figure based on verified sightings of rough sleepers or individuals we have very strong reason to believe were rough sleeping on the specified night.

The definition of a rough sleeper, for the purpose of the Government's estimate is as follows: *People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes").*

The information we gather through this process helps us ensure we get the most accurate figure possible to report back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and helps us to design future services

## **Budget/Spending review**

### **Multi-Year Spending Review**

For Local Government there will be an average real-terms increase of 3% in core spending Power. (However core spending power includes Council Tax and New Homes Bonus funding so we will need to see the detail of this with the Finance Settlement announced later). £4.8billion of grant funding will be available to local government over the next three years, the equivalent of £1.6billion a year

### **Council Tax**

The Government will set out full details of the council tax referendum principles within the draft Finance Settlement before Christmas. Today's statement states that the referendum threshold is likely to remain at 2% per year throughout the 3 years of the Spending Review (presumably for Districts this would include the allowance to go up to £5 per year but this will need to be confirmed.)

### **Business Rates**

The Chancellor's speech highlighted that the Government does not intend to abolish business rates, though the review states that the Government will launch a consultation on an Online Sales Tax (OST) to consider the benefits and drawbacks of an OST. There will be a further freeze of the business rates multiplier in 2022-23 (the pence in the £ that is applied to business rates bills). This was due to increase by 3.1% in line with September Consumer Price Index (CPI). The small business multiplier will remain at 49.9p in 2022-23.

There will be a 50% business rates discount for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure businesses for 2022-23 up to a maximum of £110,000. After the next revaluation in 2023, business rates revaluations will take place every three years.

### **Business Rates loophole**

There is no announcement about closing the business rates loophole for second homeowners who let out their property for at least 140 days.

### **On-going COVID pressures**

No new funding has been announced for any additional pressures from COVID in local government.

### [New funding to help local businesses and communities to grow stronger](#)

South Hams District Council are offering cash grants to local businesses to help them to bring ideas to life that will boost the local economy or community wellbeing. The new scheme, called the Community Recovery Grant, opens on 1 November 2021 and could be worth up to £30,000 to businesses in the District. It's for businesses of all sizes in the South Hams and West Devon and has been secured by the Council via the government's COVID recovery fund. The funding will give a boost to the local economy and community by kick-starting a chain of positive business activity. Through the scheme, a business can bid for a grant to cover or part-cover the costs of setting up a new business initiative that will have a positive impact on others in the community or other local businesses. For example, a business may want to set up a collaboration with another local business or may have plans for an event that will involve the wider community. It essentially takes the 'shop local' concept and applies it to business. Just as the local high street benefits when people shop in their local town, SHDC wants our local businesses to look to see where they can work together to support each other and spend money within the local business community. We'll give businesses the money to overcome any financial barriers to doing this and make your ideas happen.

For example, a local drinks producer links up with a local artisan bottle producer to create a limited edition range and collaborates with a local artist for a series of new labels. Or a business could apply for a grant to help them to link up with local food and entertainment suppliers to stage a festival for local people, which results in a community wellbeing benefit.

Business owners are invited to submit their ideas and plans to the Council, outlining what they want to do and how they will either work with other local businesses or engage with their local community. Applications that deliver greater benefits from the funding requested will be more likely to be approved. More details and an application form can be found at: [www.southhams.gov.uk/community-recovery-grant](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/community-recovery-grant)

Applications will close on 30 November 2021. It is anticipated that the majority of grants to be awarded will be valued between £2,000 and £10,000. However grants up to £30,000 will be considered for exceptional and innovative schemes that can show a wide range of benefits for the local economy and community.

## S106 Update

Officers have agreed to provide Members and Town and Parish Councils with an update of the s106 contributions for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (OSSR) and Affordable Housing currently held by the council. Funds are also detailed in the individual section 106 agreements for the planning application and should be available to view on line.



The tables for affordable housing contributions detail what has been collected so far, the date received and when this will need to be spent by. Also included in the section 106 document is the timescale for when off-site contributions need to be committed or spent and that the money can be spent anywhere in the South Hams. However, officers and members are trying to direct these sums to be utilised in the areas where development has occurred in the first instance.

If Parish Councillors have any queries please contact:

- Alex Rehaag or Cassandra Harrison for Affordable Housing queries
- Alexis Huggins for OSSR queries

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## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Buckingham Palace has announced a weekend of celebrations on 2 – 5 June 2022 across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world to mark the Platinum Jubilee. The Platinum Jubilee celebrates the Queen's historic reign and 70 years of service.

### [Platinum Jubilee Homepage](#)

Activities are being planned by communities, individuals and organisations and we are therefore asking Members if you are aware of any planned activities in your area and to ask for your help in encouraging activities to be planned.



The Platinum Jubilee is a great way to bring our communities together and get involved in the celebrations! We will be offering support by coordinating the events across our region and promoting activities via advertising and through our social media platforms. We will be sending information out to our communities and asking

them to tell us what events they are planning and explaining how they can get involved. This will help us to identify what plans are in place and where we can offer support. Event organisers can tell us about their events by filling in a short survey.

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## Mobile Boost Scheme



Connecting Devon and Somerset has announced the expansion of its Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas.

Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of one of a number of mobile signal booster options from a registered supplier.

The value of the voucher will be dependent on the type of technology most suitable for the premises. Suppliers will be able to advise on the most appropriate option. Businesses and residents will be required to make a contribution to cover the cost of installation. Information on the scheme has been passed on to residents and TAPs via an e-bulletin and social media. For more information and to apply visit [Connecting Devon and Somerset - Mobile Boost Scheme](#)