

# Parish report from your District Councillors

## February 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

### Council tax



At the February meeting South Hams Council voted to increase Council Tax by £5 a year for Band D properties – equivalent to 10p a week. The Government has factored in this increase – the maximum allowed without a referendum – into funding presumptions for the coming year. An Opposition amendment to make no increase this year was defeated. The SHDC budget includes a £200,000 fund for investment in community composting.

When the precepts for Parish, District and County Councils, and Police and Fire authorities are added together the average yearly demand for a Band D property will be £2,155.30. That's an increase of £64.75, or 3.1%, on last year.

### Refuse/recycling



South Hams District Council's contracted garden waste service is restarting in the spring. FCC Environment Ltd, who operate the service on behalf of the District Council, will begin collections once again from the week beginning Monday 28 March. The fortnightly service was temporarily suspended in August 2021 due to the severe national driver shortages. Since then, a recruitment campaign has managed to attract more drivers and loaders, allowing the garden waste collections to restart. As usual your garden waste bin will be emptied the opposite week to your grey bin. From the 25 March you can double check when

your next collection day will be through the Council's website. There is also helpful advice on what can go in the brown bins on [www.southhams.gov.uk/garden-waste-restart](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/garden-waste-restart)

### Ukraine

**Local authority leaders across Devon have spoken out in concern for the people of Ukraine and their families, following the Russian invasion.**



Team Devon authorities, including Devon County and District Councils and the Devon Association of Local Councils, have pledged to work together to support Ukrainian refugees seeking sanctuary in the UK, and have each condemned Russia's actions. They have agreed to give particular support to families in Devon whose relatives in Ukraine are fleeing the conflict. Individually, councils have also taken steps to

cut Russian links, such as through contracts for energy provision. And any few remaining investments within the Devon Pension Fund, linked to Russian assets, are being sold off quickly. The government has pledged to match up to £20 million of any donations from the public to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal. The fastest way to donate to a DEC appeal is by donating online. Visit <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Alternatively you can call 01204 770822, or use other ways to donate. Or visit SHDC

website: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/stand-with-ukraine>

## Leisure Centres



The role of our leisure centres in supporting community wellbeing was highlighted by South Hams District Council's Executive Committee when they met on 3 March. At the meeting, councillors discussed a report regarding Fusion Lifestyle, the charity that manages Quayside, The Pavilions, Dartmouth and Ivybridge leisure centres. It examined how Fusion has juggled the challenges of essential closures and social distancing whilst still serving this vital role within our

communities. The committee agreed to continue to support Fusion in the short term as it works hard to encourage more people back through their doors. It will do this by lowering the management fee in the short-term up to 2024. From 2024 the fee will be increased above what was originally outlined when the contract was awarded in 2016. As a result, the total amount that will be paid over the 25-year contract period will remain the same. Some people are still nervous to return to enjoying the facilities at their local leisure centre. The report shows that participation across all the Fusion leisure centres in the South Hams is now back to 76% of pre-pandemic levels. Throughout the pandemic, South Hams District Council provided a financial lifeline for many local organisations, allocating government grants to ensure they could survive the lockdowns. Fusion Lifestyle, received £435,000 from this Council to enable the leisure centres to re-open and the service to be maintained during 2020/21. As well Fusion received from the Council its share of the National Leisure Recovery Fund for £160,000 last March.

## Planning Portal



The Planning Service is adopting a Local Validation Checklist and a Planning Charter that shows how the Council will improve performance and responsiveness for applicants involved within the Planning process.

Now those applying for planning applications, will follow a simple checklist to find out which application forms, and supporting documents, they need to submit for the work they want to carry out and when they need to submit them. Not only will this take some of the frustration out of the planning process and make sure that applications are accepted first time, it will also make the service much faster and reduce delays when additional information has to be requested. The Planning Team are also very keen to promote the use of their pre-application advice service, which can provide applicants with certainty over which information they need to provide in advance of applications being submitted. The checklist will also help the Planning team to gain information from applicants about how they are reducing their carbon footprint, achieving a 10% biodiversity net gain, better provision of open spaces, sport and recreation and protecting the countryside and heritage assets. It will also go towards meeting the Council's goal for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

## Dementia Event

The Four Rivers Dementia Alliance is holding an event in Ivybridge on 25 March – it's free and open to everyone, but must be booked in advance.

### *Promoting Dementia Friendly Communities*



## LET'S TALK ABOUT DEMENTIA

Come and join us to find out how to support people living with dementia in your community, or to share your experiences and ideas on

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

at

**The Watermark, Ivybridge**

Erme Court, Leonards Road PL21 0SZ

**10:00am-3:00pm**

**Everyone welcome:**

**individuals, carers, groups, organisations and businesses**

Speakers include Sir Gary Streeter - MP, Ian Sherriff, B.E.M- Academic Partnership Lead for Dementia at Plymouth University, and Hilary Cragg, Lawyer and Author of 'Compassion with Dementia'

**This is a FREE EVENT however BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**  
via

<https://talkaboutdementia2.eventbrite.co.uk>



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