

Parish report from your District Councillors

JULY 2022

Electric Vehicle Charging Points



The first electric charging points will be commissioned the week commencing 13 June at Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth as part of the Deletti project. This will provide two electric charging bays for the public to use.

Powered by the renewable energy through a green tariff, the charge points are compatible with all makes of EVs and will fully charge a 50 kWh battery in two to four hours, providing a range of up to 200 miles depending on vehicle specification.

The rate of charge is dictated by the vehicle's inverter however these chargers can deliver enough electricity for up to 88 miles of travel in one hour. This means the points are ideal for both shorter stops, such as shopping trips, and regular charges by residents.

As these points are for public use, they are also available for visitors of Devon wishing to charge their electric vehicle.

The cost to fully charge a 50 kWh battery, providing a range of up to 200 miles, would be in the region of £17.50.

For ease of use, drivers will be able to pay via Scottish Power's app, which is free to download, or through a scannable QR code which will be displayed on the charge point.

Scottish Power do not charge a subscription fee or a minimum vend. Users may need to purchase a parking ticket as normal, please check at each site.

These charging points are part of the larger DELETTI programme, a £1.3 million project which is being largely funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Scottish Power intend to carry out civil works to install the charging point at Creek car park, Salcombe the week commencing the 14 June followed by Western Power Distribution connection works the week commencing 21 June followed by commissioning for use the week commencing 11 July. These dates may be subject to change.

Press releases and social media coverage regarding the EV charging points will be carried out.

Waste Update-SHDC Members grill FCC managers

A Special Full Council Meeting was called by Members on Wednesday 8th June to once again question FCC senior management on the continuing poor performance of the garden waste service. Members spent over two hours relaying their frustrations, and those of their residents on the erratic and haphazard reintroduction of the brown bin collections,

despite repeated assurances in March from FCC that all was in place for the service to restart.

All Members of the Council were unanimous in their condemnation of FCCs poor service to our communities, and FCC Director of UK Operations Steve Longdon was left in no doubt that a major improvement in the service was long overdue.

FCC continue to struggle to recruit enough workers to fully staff the service, leading to the situation that some garden waste rounds cannot go out on their allotted collection day.



The black bin waste and the recycling collections are fully resourced and are operating as we would wish.

FCC are unable to carry out any recovery of the garden waste as recovery of black bins and recycling is being prioritised.



If a resident's bin is not collected on their scheduled day, we are advising residents to keep their brown bin out until 5pm the following day and if it isn't collected, then to take their bin in and present on their next collection day.

Officers continue to work closely with FCC to ensure as many collections are made as possible, but in order to ensure we can hold FCC to account contractually please encourage all residents to report their missed collection online.



We do not yet know when those areas which have not switched to the box recycling system will do so.

Council Tax Energy Rebate



Just over 9,000 households who live in Council Tax bands A to D and who paid by Direct Debit on 1 April have now been paid their £150 Council Tax Energy Rebate by South Hams District Council. Despite guidance issued to councils stating that payments should be made by the deadline of 30 September, South Hams District Council knew that their residents needed this extra help as soon as possible.

Staff worked rapidly to set up the systems to those already registered by direct debit, so they could be paid as early as possible. Whereas some councils nationwide have told their residents that they won't receive payment until as late as the September deadline. To date, the Council has issued just over 9,000 payments, which was paid to residents' bank accounts last week.

Those with different direct debit payment dates throughout April will receive similar payments soon. An application form is live on the Council's website, for those who do not pay by Direct Debit, and these will be processed from May.

Solar Panels on South Hams Leisure Centres

In a meeting on 7 April, the Council's Executive Committee heard about the steady progress being made by the organisation since the approval of its Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy in December 2020. The goals set in this strategy include reducing the Council's own carbon footprint to net-zero by 2030 and increasing biodiversity on its own land by 10% in 2025.

To back up the organisation-wide efforts to lower carbon emissions, the Executive Committee approved plans to loan Fusion Leisure £500,000 for the installation of solar panels at all four District Council leisure centres. A study on greenhouse gas emissions caused by Council activity was commissioned last year. It showed that the biggest proportion of the organisation's emissions relate to its activities from leased assets, franchising and outsourcing. That includes the four leisure centres.

The installation of the panels will reduce the carbon emissions of the centres by 131 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCOe), equivalent to the annual energy emissions of 38 homes. Predictably, the emissions study also found that the reduction in staff travel caused by the pandemic led to a big saving in CO2 released into the atmosphere; a saving of 234 tCOe was made, the equivalent of powering 66 homes for a year.

PLYMOUTH FREEPORT APPLICATION APPROVED



I'm delighted to share the news that the Full Business Case for the Freeport has been approved by the Chancellor and that the tax sites at Sherford and Oceans Gate (Plymouth) will go live July 4.

This means that the opportunities for businesses to invest and create jobs can start in earnest, taking advantage of the benefits of the Freeport. Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council have worked with private sector organisations and landowners and created Plymouth and South Devon Freeport Limited, a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. It is currently being led by interim chair Adrian Bratt, general counsel at Princess Yachts. Cllr Bastone is a Director on the board of the company.

Work continues to secure the designation of the Langage site, which it is hoped will be in September.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The total reported number of Ukrainian guests residing in South Hams under the Homes For Ukraine scheme is 120 over 51 properties (and the team are also supporting another 121 guests in West Devon).

The Support for our Ukrainian Guests is continuing in the form of essential financial support and assisting with the building blocks of sustainable living in the UK. This has also evolved into working with guests and hosts where relationships are breaking down, and planning for any moves from accommodation as required.

Locally we are experiencing a few placements begin to breakdown. One of the reasons we are seeing is when there is a single host who has taken on more than one adult, and feeling isolated and the “odd one out” in their own homes. This has been informative for our pre-arrival visits when we speak to the hosts about understanding the task they are taking on. We are also learning of husbands and fathers permitted to leave the Ukraine, so property moves due to increasing family sizes are required. These circumstances are being echoed through the country and many of the Team Devon discussions are centred around rematch placements and changes of address that will be required. The team are visiting potential hosts and starting to build a stock of properties that can be used when guests need to move.

Nationally members will be aware the UK government has announced another £1billion of military support to Ukraine on the 30 June.

Whilst completing home welcome visits to some guests in the area I observed the attached drawing that a British child has done for his Ukrainian friend and it was proudly displayed on the guest's wall. Whilst very simple in design it beautifully shows the support that guests are receiving in our area.

New Household Support Fund



Details are starting to emerge of the government's intentions on this. Last year the funding, which gets allocated to upper tier authorities, had very little guidance. This year the government have stated that 33% of the funding should be spent on supporting children, 33% on pensioners, with the remainder allocated based on local need.

While we are still awaiting final funding allocations, initial Team Devon discussions are proposing that DCC use the children's element as they did last year, to provide additional free school meals and the suggestion is that a one-off payment is made to those of pensionable age in receipt of Council tax support i.e. already in receipt of a benefit. Across Devon that equates to some 19,000 individuals and would result in a payment of around £85.

Additional Funding for the Council



We have been successful in a funding bid to DCC / Public Health on behalf of all Devon Districts for funding to support further outbreak management. District Councils will be continuing promotion of infection, prevention and control measures within workplace settings to limit outbreaks of infection and knock on effects of impacts on local communities. The Council will receive £55,000 and the funding

is required to support public health activities directly related to the COVID-19 response, such as testing, non-financial support for self-isolation, support to particular groups (CEV (clinically extremely vulnerable) individuals, rough sleepers), communications and engagement, and compliance and enforcement.

To help guide applications, examples of the types of project the fund will consider supporting are:

- Digital skills and inclusion projects
 - Social inclusion and connectedness projects
 - Mental health interventions
 - Employability skills
 - Projects increasing community access to outside space
 - Inter-generational support projects
 - Befriending services
 - Innovative solutions to combating loneliness.
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