

Parish report from your District Councillors

AUGUST 2022

Waste Update- SHDC to terminate FCC contract



South Hams Council has voted to take the waste collection, street and toilet cleaning services back in house. The Council has reached a mutual agreement with their contractors to end the agreement. Both parties agree that the past few years have presented a number of extremely challenging circumstances. In the best interests of the residents of the South Hams, it is proposed that the services will be operated by the Council from Monday, 3 October 2022. The Council will work closely with FCC to ensure a smooth

transfer of the services and staff. The decision follows continuing dissatisfaction by residents over the failure to restore the garden waste collection service to an acceptable level, and the halt to the roll out of the new recycling box scheme to parts of the district. The decision is likely to add significantly to the council's costs for this service

.FREE TREE PLANTING SCHEMES

If you're encouraging communities, schools and landowners to do some tree-planting this November they can apply for free trees through the schemes below, but the deadlines are imminent, so please share this information ASAP:



- The **Woodland Trust** is giving away hundreds of free trees for schools and communities. The closing date for applying for a tree pack is **26 August 2022** for November delivery. Then applications will open again on 1 September 2022 for spring packs (March 2023 delivery). For details of the tree packs available and to apply go to: [Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)
- This year, **Devon County Council's** Free Tree Scheme is offering 100 free tree packs to landowners across Devon for the forthcoming planting season. Each tree pack will contain 45 native trees and will be funded by Devon County Council's Emergency Tree Fund, granted by The Woodland Trust. To find out more, including how to apply for a free tree pack, visit devon.cc/emergencytreefund and head over to the 'Free Tree Scheme' tab. The initial deadline for applications is **18 September 2022** with later applications subject to availability.

If you're planning tree-themed activities or events during November and/or have tree-related resources, please [email me](#) the details as soon as possible.

Council shelves Aldi scheme for Ivybridge



The South Hams Executive has agreed to stop work permanently on the Aldi supermarket proposal in Ivybridge. The decision comes after the South Hams' Development Management Committee, having considered all the relevant planning matters, unanimously refused the planning application.

It was refused for a number of reasons. Firstly, it failed to show how the development would not have a harmful impact on town centre businesses. Secondly, the loss of trees and the loss of biodiversity. Finally, it considered that the design and the scale of the proposal would not fit in with its surroundings.

The proposal for the new Aldi store and associated infrastructure at Leonard's Road was originally backed by the Full Council, who voted to progress a planning application. However, the application, which was the subject of a large number of objections from the community and business representatives, was unanimously refused. The council has incurred costs of approximately £480,000 in developing the scheme. It had been budgeted to cost around £9million but this figure is likely to have increased significantly following the sharp rise in building costs.

Solar Panels on South Hams Leisure Centres

The Council has approved the investment of £500,000 in the installation of solar panels at all four leisure centres in the district - Ivybridge, Totnes, Kingsbridge and Dartmouth. 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. The investment was originally to have been carried out by a loan to the operators, Fusion, but the council has now decided to fund the work direct.

PLYMOUTH FREEPORT APPLICATION APPROVED

The Full Business Case for the Freeport has been approved and the tax sites at Sherford and Oceans Gate (Plymouth) went live on 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.