

Report from your District Councillors

MARCH 2023

Council Tax



South Hams District Council has agreed a rise in the council's element of the Council Tax of £5 a year for a Band D property. This equates to just under 2.8%, 10p a week, and is slightly less than the maximum 2.9% allowed by the Government. A Band D property will pay £185.42pa. Liberal Democrat Councillors voted against the increase,

But it was supported by several other Opposition Members, including the Greens.

- Devon County Council's increase is the maximum 4.99%, a rise of £77.67 a year for a Band D property - £1,634.13pa), Devon and Cornwall Police 6% (£15) and Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue 5.45% (£5 - £96.79pa)
- Council agreed to charge double Council Tax on second homes. This is dependent for this year on legislation being passed by the end of March and will make a useful addition to Council income. The Tories at SHDC trumpeted this as their success, when in reality Julian and other Opposition Members have been pressing for this for years, with the Government reluctant to take action.
- In a success for the LibDem Group the Tories accepted our amendment to the budget for public toilets in Council ownership to return to having free admission. This is something Keith Baldry has been advocating fiercely. There will be discussions on supporting town and parish councils which have taken on responsibility for their toilets. A second amendment to appoint a second Tree Officer to the Planning Department was also accepted.

Voter ID

There may be residents without access to the internet or a computer who require extra support applying for Voter ID. Residents can call the election team to make an appointment to help complete their application.

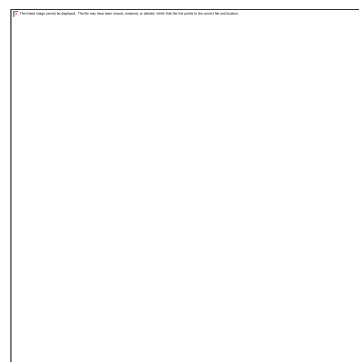
Call the team to make an appointment

to help complete your application

for Voter ID online or at the SHDC election office.

Tel: **01803 861434**

We will need your National Insurance number and date of birth.



Key Dates for Residents

- Register to vote by 11:59pm on Monday 17 April
- Apply for postal vote by 5pm on Tuesday 18 April
- Apply for Voter Authority Certificate by Tuesday 25 April

Garden Waste Update

The new South Hams garden waste collection service first collections will take place within two weeks of 6 March. New collection rounds have been set up. Residents are charged £49 a year. At the end of Thursday we had visited 4,700 subscribed properties and only had 22 missed collections reported by the public, which for the first week of a new service is a fantastic achievement. We are encouraging residents to check their garden waste collection day as it may be on a different day to their refuse and recycling by visiting www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday. We currently have 11,276 garden waste subscriptions, so on target for the predicted 25% take up rate, we anticipate that this will increase once the growing season begins.

Residents have asked: "Where does the sticker we've received need to be fixed to on the bin?"

A: The sticker should be fixed to the outside / top of the lid so it's visible when the lid is fully shut, or to the front of your garden bin, so it's visible for our crews when the bin is presented for collection.

For more information, visit: www.southhams.gov.uk/service-update. Residents can also contact us by 'Contact the waste team'.

Raising Awareness around the Cost of Living

As part of our Cost of Living action plan, SHDC Communications team has been supplying local newspapers with articles on the cost of living, for both South Hams and West Devon. SHDC will continue to raise awareness around these issues, and the support available.

Wild About Devon Grants

Grants of up to £500 are available for Devon community wildlife projects. The [Wild About Devon](#) grant scheme is [open for new applications](#), having been extended following from a successful first round.

The aim of this grant scheme is to provide an easy way for community groups to access small amounts of funding to start a wildlife group or carry out activities that promote wildlife. Funds can be used for advice, equipment and other resources.

New Local Electric Charging Points

Scottish Power have recently commissioned some further electric charging points within our car parks. Electric Charging Points are now available at the following car parks:

- Glanvilles Mill car park, Ivybridge (Highways England)
- Mayors Avenue car park, Dartmouth
- Creek car park, Salcombe
- Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury
- Pavilions car park, Totnes
- Victoria Street car park, Totnes
- Quay car park, Kingsbridge

Awaiting installation/commissioning are:

- Fore Street car park, Kingsbridge
- Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth

Further works are required to paint the EV bays and this will be carried out in due course. In the meantime, all these sites are available for use by the public.

