

Report from your District Councillors

APRIL 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 in South Hams will pay [£185.42pa](#).

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 increase by 6%, a rise of [£15](#) to [£261.56pa](#)

Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue increase by 5.45% rise of £5 - [£96.79pa](#)

Average Parish Council Precept 3.5% to [£80pa](#) (varies according to Parish)

- Council agreed to charge double Council Tax on second homes, joining several other Local Authorities across the country who have agreed to implement this rise. This is dependent on legislation being passed by the Government to allow it to happen. If enacted it will make a useful addition to Council income, as there are over 4000 second homes in the South Hams.
- Council voted for toilets in Council ownership to return to having free admission. There will be discussions on supporting town and parish councils which have taken on responsibility for their toilets

Hydrogen Power Hub to be sited in South Hams

Energy infrastructure provider Carlton Power, who developed the Langage gas fired power station and the nearby Langage Solar Farm, have announced they have secured Government support to build and run a hydrogen production facility at Langage Industrial Estate near Ivybridge. The site has important connections to the National Grid for both gas and high voltage electricity.

This plant will be the first of its kind in Devon and Cornwall and will form part of the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, which secured Government backing in 2022. Under the scheme, Langage will provide local companies, such as transport fleets and heavy construction machinery with easy access to hydrogen fuel. In addition, the site will support the further growth of renewable electricity generation in the South West by producing and storing hydrogen at times when renewable output is high, but electricity demand is low.

In addition, the Council is in negotiation with defence contractor Babcock who are interested in a potential large site next to the A38 at Deep Lane, part of the Sherford development.

Babcock want to use the site for service and storage of equipment as part of their contract for maintenance of Royal Navy non-nuclear vessels

These two sites if they go ahead should provide stable, high quality employment for workers in our area.

Voter ID

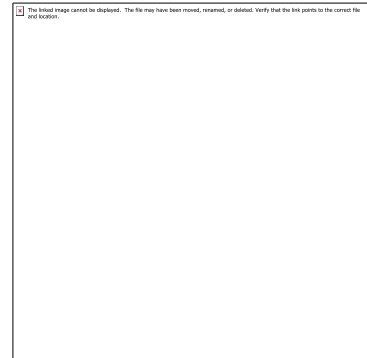
There may be residents without access to the internet or a computer who require extra support applying for Voter ID. Residents can call the election team to make an appointment to help complete their application.

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](#)
- VOTING DAY [4th MAY](#)

Garden Waste Update

The new South Hams garden waste collection service first collections took place within two weeks of 6 March. New collection rounds have been set up, serving more than 11,000 residents, who are charged £49 a year. After four days staff 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.

SHDC is on target for the predicted 25% take up rate, we anticipate that this will increase once the growing season begins.

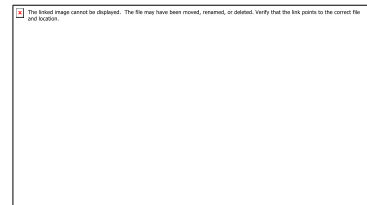


The Governments long awaited Environment Bill is due to be published shortly. It's expected it will contain changes to regulations affecting waste and recycling collections by Councils. SHDC Officers are waiting to see what the implications of

these proposed changes are before making further plans to change and upgrade the waste and recycling service we currently provide.

UK Emergency Alert Service launched - test taking place on 23 April 2023

The UK government's new Emergency Alerts system is now live. The system will enable people to be contacted via their mobile phone when lives are in danger. It will be used to warn you in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding. The Emergency Alerts system will allow the government to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 percent of mobile phones in a defined area. A UK-wide alerts test will take place in the early evening of 23 April, which will see people receive a test message on their mobile phones. Your mobile phone or tablet may:



- Make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent.
- Vibrate
- Read out the alert.

The sound and vibration will last for about ten seconds.

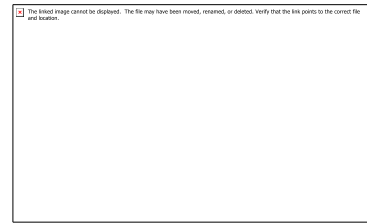
It is important to note:

- Alerts will only ever come from the government or emergency services, and they will issue a warning, the details of the area impacted, and instructions about how best to respond.
- Emergency Alerts will be used very rarely - only being sent where there is an immediate risk to people's lives - so people may not receive an alert for months, or even years.
- Initial use will focus on the most serious severe weather-related incidents, including severe flooding in England.
- Alerts are secure, free to receive, and one-way. They do not reveal anyone's location or collect personal data.
- If you don't have a mobile phone and in the event of an emergency, you will be informed via other channels such as TV and radio.

For more information visit: www.gov.uk/alerts

Raising Awareness around the Cost of Living

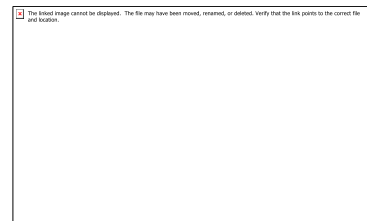
As part of our Cost of Living action plan, SHDC Communications team has been supplying local newspapers with articles on the cost of living, for both South Hams and West Devon. SHDC will continue to raise awareness around these issues, and the support available.



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.

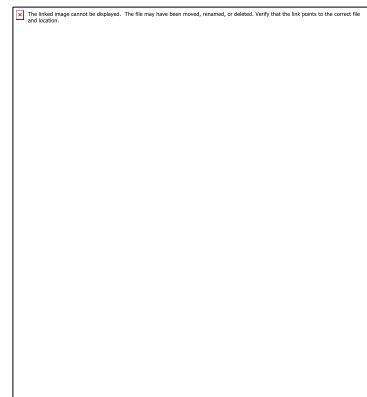


The Big Help Out

The Big Help Out is encouraging us all to roll up our sleeves and volunteer in the local area on Monday 8 May to celebrate the King's Coronation.

This is a great opportunity to reflect on the legacy of His Majesty's service and showcase the impact of volunteering within communities.

Residents can visit the [Big Help Out website](#) to find out how they can lend a hand within the South Hams this May. This event is a great way to get involved in the local community and meet like-minded people!



There is something for everyone to get involved in from lending a hand to improve a village green to helping the Ramblers keep our public footpaths in action. It is also a great way to promote volunteering opportunities. Organisations can register with [The Big Help Out](#) to be matched with willing local volunteers.

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.

