

South Hams District Councillors' Report November 2022

Recycling & Waste Collection

It is a pleasure to say that during the first month of the formal transition period the success in brown bin collections grew and nominally all rounds went out on all but the first two days. We are now in the pause in brown bin collections freeing up a few drivers and operatives to ensure recycling and waste collections are successfully collected over the winter. At some stage, there will be tweaks to a few of the collection rounds and for large parts of the South Hams, we can hope for the intended full recycling system to be deployed. The garden waste subscription service is open for residents, to ready for collections in the spring. There are over 1000 subscribers so far.

Torbay is consulting on updates to its Local Plan and is appealing against the number of houses it must build. If the appeal is lost, it says it does not have sufficient greenfield space to provide new builds and it is likely the South Hams will be requested to make up some of the shortfall.

The annual door-to-door registration of voters has started, with a concentration on addresses with no return of the self-reporting form. The new Electoral Register will be published on December 1st.

There is to be an estimate of rough sleepers on the night of 14th/ 15th November. The team would be grateful for descriptions of places where rough sleepers camp out. This might be well supported by the use of the software, What 3 Words.

There has been an outbreak of Avian Flu (HSN1) in Dartington and a flock of geese culled. SHDC is responsible for collecting dead birds on public land where there is a public health concern.

On District Council staff workload, a few were dedicated in whole or in part to liaising with FCC or undertaking full time work. Other unexpected workload came with supporting Ukrainian refugees and from the consequences of Covid. Once again, officers are supporting the latter by distributing a further £1.6mn to 509 businesses in a recently agreed new payment to disadvantaged businesses.

The Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) is one of England's newest Community Forests. The project aims to deliver 500 hectares of new woodland by March 2025. The boundary of the PSDCF has been extended further into the South Hams (see https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1RjWC_NTFO-vt2-35M0ChDwSw1oSmjf0&ll=50.51013245498657%2C-3.9358906000000067&z=10).

The support will cover numerous planting types, including large-scale woodland creation through to hedgerows, agroforestry, and other small-scale planting below one hectare.

If you know of a landowner, farmer, Parish Council, school or community that may be interested, contact the PSDCF team to arrange a discussion of their plans at psdcf@plymouth.gov.uk

Devon County Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and helped to publish the Devon Carbon Plan, which sets out what needs to be done for the region to meet the climate emergency challenge.

The decarbonisation of transport in Devon is a crucial part of this response, as the sector represents a large proportion of Devon's emissions. The transition to zero emission vehicles, as well as a shift to public transport and active travel, are vital to achieving the Devon goal of 50% emission reduction by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050. Nevertheless, many Devon residents rely on cars and vans, and local authorities have a role to play in enabling and accelerating the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs). The Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy aims to help all residents and visitors overcome barriers to EV adoption and increase access to suitable infrastructure. A key barrier to the uptake of EVs is the availability of suitable charging infrastructure. The EV strategy provides a summary of EVs in Devon, assesses the policy context, forecasts EV uptake and charge point demand to 2030 and sets out recommendations for how Devon County Council will intervene.

A consultation will run until 16 December. Please let us know your requirements for on-street and car park charging points in the parish.

Tom still has over £1,800 Locality funding earmarked for Ugborough parish.

Cllrs Tom Holway and Victor Abbott