

## Ugborough Parish Council February Newsletter

### January Meeting Public Forum

Cluna Donnelly (Community Connector Ivybridge), South Hams Community and Voluntary Services introduced the idea for a community art participation project led by Ukrainian guests to decorate the Bittaford bus shelter. Council will consider this at the next meeting and it would be lovely to hear before that if anyone might be interested in taking part if it goes ahead.

### Questions from the Public

Unfortunately no members of the public attended our meeting in January. A member of the public had requested to attend the online meeting with Devon County Highways to discuss the implementation of a 20mph speed limit in the village but we agreed that as this was only a short introductory meeting Cllr Fletcher would feedback at the February meeting. Councillor Richard Hosking introduced himself as the Conservative candidate for the forthcoming SHDC elections in May and Cllr Fletcher thanked Cllr Holway for his support as SHDC Councillor over the years. The flooding situation at Kitterford Cross was noted and Cllr Hosking has contacted Devon County Council for comments

### Devon County Council

**Dan Thomas** had not submitted a report and confirmed that he would be attending the 20mph speed limit meeting and an on-site road safety meeting at the junction of Parsonage Lane.

### South Hams District Council

South Hams District Councillors reminded us that there have been a range of articles within the local press and on social media. The information is all still available and covers:

- Where to go for help and advice
- How to avoid scams
- Warm spaces
- Protecting your mental health this winter
- Downsizing to reduce bills
- Helping others in difficulty
- Do you qualify for Council Tax reduction?
- Improving homes and reducing costs
- Help with housing
- Universal Credit explained

To sign up for their regular online newsletters go to their website - <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/subscriber/new>

They also highlighted two webinars you can sign up to '**Let's talk Pre-teens**', a follow up to 'Let's Talk Teenagers' for webinars giving useful advice on how to keep children safe, and **the dangers of using illegal money lenders**. (Look out for publicity over the next few weeks)

Ninety-eight households have received payments from the Household Support Fund managed by SHDC. Payments came to £32,170. You can still apply to this fund.

### Planning

At the January meeting we considered the application for the removal of a tree at 21 Lutterburn Street as the deadline for responses fell before the February meeting but the application had not arrived in time to go on the January agenda. We ratified our response at this meeting; "To support the application with a comment – *the Council regret the loss of a mature tree but accept the owner has no choice considering the damage to the wall*"

Over the last month we have received 8 notifications of planning decisions made by South Hams District Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority:

- Witchcombe Barn Ugborough Prior Approval Application for proposed agricultural building for storage of fodder - **Prior Approval Required and Given**
- Hollies, Wrangaton Application for variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning consent 57/1640/11/F - **Conditional Approval**
- Parsonage Cottage. Application for conversion of garage into utility room, two storey side extension and single storey rear extension - **Conditional Approval**
- Plot South of Coach House Inn, Wrangaton. The erection of two, three bedroomed houses with associated gardens & parking - **Refusal**
- Single storey extension including patio area Cheston Farm, Wrangaton - **Grant Conditionally**
- Retrospective planning permission for the laying of an area of hardstanding and track Land At Ruby Rose Farm, Wrangaton - **Grant Conditionally**
- A secure dog walking and exercise field including provision of off road parking, 2m security fence and the provision of a shelter Hazelmere Farm, Bittaford - **Grant Conditionally**
- Single storey side extension and parking bay 4 Lanteglos Close - **Grant Conditionally**

We have decided it is time to write to South Hams District Council planning enforcement team to voice our dissatisfaction at the length of time it is taking for them to investigate building and development that does not comply with planning regulations and take people into account for those breaches.

## Finance

We are pleased to grant fund Ivybridge Ring and Ride £250

Following initial consideration of the proposed budget for 2023-2024 at our last meeting we formally agreed it at this meeting and it is now available for you to look at on our website. The budget takes into account anticipated increased costs and new expenditure and we are delighted that in April there will be no increase in the portion of your council tax that you pay for sole use by us to fund services and activities which are of direct benefit to you here in Ugborough Parish.

## Council Assets

### Public toilets in Bittaford and Ugborough

We discussed the statement we had received from South Hams District Council regarding the transfer of the toilets to us:

*SHDC are not prepared to alter the original offer made of the transfer of the former public conveniences to the parish council with attached overage provisions. This would involve the transfer of the freehold title of the immediate curtilage of the building and for the parish council to take on all associated costs (cleaning, repairs and maintenance, utilities, rates where applicable and consumables).*

and agreed that we were unable to take on the assets with these conditions. Cllr Holway will continue his discussions with Members of the South Hams District Council Executive and Senior Leadership Team regarding dropping the overage fee should the buildings be adapted for added beneficial community use.

### Bittaford Play Park

We are progressing various actions to address issues raised at the regular maintenance inspections and Cllr Hart is chasing the installation of a new gate by Dartmoor National Park. Once that is provided we will install an accessible picnic bench. A quote has been requested for a new multi-activity unit and a working party will be established to improve the surfaces

## Highways & Rights of Way

We considered the purchase of a second Vehicle Activated Speed camera for use at the approach to Beacon View junction onto the road to Wrangaton. As there is already a camera on the approach into Bittaford we have decided to raise the matter with Devon County Council Highways Dept. and ask if they would provide a fixed sign warning of a concealed entrance on the bend.

## Meeting Dates

Due to Bank Holidays and local elections we have had to change several of our meeting dates this year. The new dates are:

Monday April 17th 7.30pm

Monday May 15th 7.00pm Annual Council Meeting and 7.30pm Council meeting

Monday 3rd July 7.30pm Council meeting

**The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting** is being held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.30pm in Ugborough Village Hall – please put this date in your diary now, it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible there to share your news and information about village activities.

#### **School Field update**

We are still waiting to hear from The Trust's Legal Dept.