

Report from your District Councillors

Ged Yardy

- Free parking outside the Dartmouth HWBC for patients:
 - SHDC Exec agreed to 8 spaces providing 1 hour free parking however also agreed charges for the remainder of the HWBC car park and winter charges for the P&R.
 - “.. I am disappointed in the SHDC decision to increase / expand charges at the P&R and HWBC that will impact on residents during the ongoing cost of living crisis, particularly with access to NHS services, sports facilities and the charging for the P&R during the winter period when there is no “ride” service. I look forward to contributing to the planned robust review in 6 months time based upon actual usage
 - Car parking charges implemented from Aug 1st. Local signage poor and visitors have limited knowledge of the 8 free spaces and parking in the short term park and ride.
 - There is a need to follow up with officers to ensure Stagecoach retendering, continuity of services to ensure no deterioration of services. Letter from DTC to SHDC / DCC to explain importance.
 - Meeting planned with Exec and officers for October to discuss the scope of the robust review of parking around the Dartmouth HWBC and the P&R
- HWBC: Met with stakeholders regarding finding a solution to the stepped access to the rear of the HWBC. J. Hawkins followed up - No dig zone precludes making progress.
- Discussed NHS Dental service changes in Dartmouth. The NHS services have at least temporarily ceased - I have circulated (DCC SHDC LOF, CCG, DTC) a proposal for review to establish a No Frills Dental service. This requires £32k pump priming funding. Good feedback so far. Invited to attend Dentistry meeting care of DCC.
- Met with Baker Estates and discussed the challenges and issues associated with the development eg road flooding, bus stops, affordable housing, access routes. Will continue to work with all partners to support further improvements.
 - Followed up on the flooding. Works are planned for Norton Bends, DCC explained that there are constrained budgets and works could span several years.
 - Explored with SHDC / DCC regarding cycle routes and pathways eg paths to Stoke Flemming, Dartmouth, Little Cotton sports Facilities and HWBC

- Housing Working Group: Explored role of CLTs to manage community assets, social and affordable.
- Supported Swifts football with a donation from the community fund
- Have had multiple comms regarding progressing the Dartmouth Community Hospital transaction. Transaction remains possible. NHS Foundation due to go open market in August/ September. I will pursue the need for the benefits for the residents of Dartmouth to be included in any transaction.
- Planning Enforcement: Met with SHDC enforcement to learn and understand about ongoing enforcement in the Dartmouth area along with challenges. Have followed up on specific cases in Stoke Gabriel and Kingswear.
- Bus Services: Met with Stakeholders to discuss Dartmouth bus proposal. DAB - no funding currently available Concern raised over the loss of the Stagecoach compound and Stagecoach retendering of Dartmouth Park and Ride regarding with stagecoach services.
- As a DTC appointed director of Dartmouth Visitor Centre we have met to discuss improving fund raising for the centre, signing leases with DTC and managing costs. There is a need to explore reducing costs eg diversification / partnerships.
- DTC formed a working group to evaluate the Banking Hub opportunity - Banking hub. Meetings taking place to evaluate options with the banking access team. No decision made as we are fact finding stage. DVC to be considered as an partnership to provide the Banking hub service
- Attended multiple Governor and Board oversight meetings: NHS Torbay NHS Foundation NHS Foundation
 - Trust remain in NOF4 operational and financial challenges, as have all the local trusts under national oversight. Eg Day surgery, reducing long wait targets.
 - OPEL 4: Up to a 20% increase in patients , Consultants / junior doctors - annual leave, strikes are impacting on capacity and delivery leading to challenges
- Audit and Governance:
 - Plymouth Freeport: Reviewed progress concerning the Plymouth Freeport. Report due for Exec for review
 - SHDC accounts reviewed and auditor appointed

SHDC news

New online service to help tenants

Please help spread the word about a new online form. Tenants across South Hams are now able to report housing disrepair issues through our new and simplified service.



As part of our ongoing commitment to improve housing standards across the District, tenants can benefit from a new online form, making the process quicker and easier to report a housing repair issue. They can use the online service to upload photos and will then be provided with a clear point of contact for advice and support. Tenants can expect a response to their enquiry within two weeks, with emergency situations dealt with more quickly.

This new online service supports our work in ensuring that housing issues are continuously monitored and resolved in a timely manner. Where appropriate, we will continue to inspect properties and contact landlords directly, working closely with Registered Providers to report and track the progress of any issues on the tenant's behalf.

Read the full press release [here](#).

Communications

Prioritising climate and biodiversity action

We have pledged £40,000 to support the work of [Sustainable South Hams](#) and the formation of a new council advisory panel for climate matters.



Our Executive has agreed to give the substantial grant to Sustainable South Hams to continue their district-wide work in fighting climate change. The organisation supports grassroots climate projects across the South Hams, sharing knowledge and inspiration between its member groups.

Our new Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory Group will use specialist and expert knowledge to support ours and wider community's climate ambitions. Its core aim will be helping develop district-wide projects that have an influence on lowering carbon emissions.

Read the full press release [here](#).

Communications

More support with the Cost of Living

With the cost of living crisis still biting for many residents across the District, we are looking at more ways to get support to those who need it through our Household Support Fund.



The Executive Committee have agreed to take immediate steps to move quickly to get support payments to those who need it the most.

Used to help cover basics essential living costs like food, energy, water and other necessities the households may need, we are spending £168,598 from the Department of Work and Pensions to help residents until the end of summer, with a further £206,064 for the winter period. An additional surplus of £48,245 from the Council Tax Support Fund will be used to top-up the existing Exceptional Household Fund which supports residents receiving Council Tax Reduction and are still struggling to pay their Council Tax.

Read the full press release [here](#).

