

## **Notes for Parish Councils – November, 2021**

### **Urban Tree Challenge Fund Success**

#### **Forestry Commission Fund**

We have just confirmation of a successful bid for £250,000 for the South Hams from the Forestry Commission towards ‘urban’ tree planting from a nationwide £10million pot. This delivering against the thematic action plan of the Corporate Strategy and Climate Change & Biodiversity plan actions.

The project will see planting at 32 sites within Ivybridge, Totnes, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge, the majority owned by SHDC, with some delivered in partnership with Ivybridge TC, Kingsbridge TC, and Livewest.

Funding is for planting of standards (typically 3-4.5m height) along with 3 years follow up maintenance (mainly comprising watering). Planting will be undertaken during the coming 21/22 and 22/23 seasons, and bringing meaningful wildlife, health and wellbeing, and landscape benefits to some of our urban sites.

For more information please contact me on [rob.sekula@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:rob.sekula@swdevon.gov.uk)

### **Important announcement on Integrated Care System for**

#### **Devon appointments**

Chair of the Integrated Care System for Devon appointed

Dr Sarah Wollaston has been appointed chair of the Integrated Care System for Devon (ICSD) for the next 12 months.

Dr Wollaston, a practising GP in Devon, was MP for Totnes from 2010 to 2019, during which time she served as chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee in the Commons for five years.

Dr Wollaston succeeds Dame Suzi Leather, who has chaired the Devon health and care system since 2018.

Dame Suzi had announced that she would not be seeking further office as the chair of the ICS for Devon. However, she agreed to continue in the role for a short period after a national recruitment process run earlier in the year did not appoint to the position of Chair Designate for Devon’s new Integrated Care Board (ICB).

Dame Suzi said: “Sarah’s appointment is very good news for patients, carers and everyone working in health and social care in Devon. Sarah comes with a professional

lifetime's experience as a GP, which, combined, with her time as a local MP, including chairing the House of Commons Health Select Committee, makes her a knowledgeable, experienced leader with a reputation commensurate with the ICS chair role."

Dr Wollaston, who lives in South Devon, has worked in hospital and primary care settings and returned to clinical practice during the pandemic as a GP and to help with the COVID vaccination programme. She was recently awarded an honorary fellowship with the Royal Society of Medicine in recognition of her work in public health and scrutiny of health policy.

Dr Wollaston, who takes up the role on 1 December 2021, said: "I am really looking forward to joining the Integrated Care System for Devon as interim chair.

"I would like to thank Dame Suzi for her exceptional work in establishing and maintaining solid partnerships across our health and care system and for her tireless dedication to improving the health, care and wellbeing of people in Devon.

"I would also like to thank everyone in our health and care services for their unstinting commitment, hard work and resilience. I have seen from my own frontline experience through the pandemic that the pressures are intense and that there is a long road ahead.

"Our ICS will play an important role in helping Devon's health and care system to recover from the impact of the pandemic and in serving our communities by planning future services. I'm aware the system faces significant challenges, and only by working together

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and sharing our collective expertise and resources will we successfully rise to those challenges."

Chief executive officer of Integrated Care System for Devon formally appointed Jane Milligan has been formally appointed to the role of Chief Executive Officer for the new Integrated Care System for Devon (ICSD), when it officially comes into being from 1 April 2022.

Following a rigorous national process for all new ICS Chief Executive Officer posts, NHS England has now approved Jane in this role. Jane joined the Devon system in April 2021, having previously worked in north east London.

Dame Suzi Leather, chair, said: "Jane was appointed further to an exacting recruitment

process and she shone out. She has not been back in Devon long but has already proved that she is an extremely high performing leader who engages with the pressing tasks at hand in an inclusive, impactful way while working relentlessly towards our vision of equal chances for everyone in Devon to lead long, happy, and healthy lives.”

Jane, who has worked for the NHS for 33 years and has extensive experience at a senior level, added: “I have really enjoyed my return to Devon and am very much looking forward to leading our new Integrated Care System from April 2022.

“By working together, health and care partners across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay have already made good progress in many important areas in recent years. This is a good foundation to enable us to tackle the very real challenges we face in Devon to improve services, financial efficiency and enhance the health and well-being of our Devon population.”

Dame Suzi Leather

Dame Suzi Leather, who became independent chair of the then Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership in 2018, is stepping down from the role of chair of the Integrated Care System for Devon.

Cllr John Hart, leader of Devon County Council, one of the partners in the Integrated Care System for Devon, said: “Dame Suzi has worked with inspirational passion and enthusiasm to forge closer partnerships between Devon’s health and care organisations, especially through the Covid-19 pandemic.

“She leads by example and always has the best interests of people in Devon at heart. She has been a champion for tackling inequality of every kind, preventing ill-health and focusing on high quality services. On behalf of all the partners in the Integrated Care System for Devon, I would like to thank her for her leadership, expertise and dedication and we wish her all the very best for the future.”

Dame Suzi said: “I have worked hard to bring health and care together over the last few years and feel that they are better integrated now than ever before. Working alongside Jane Milligan, the newly confirmed CEO for the ICS for Devon, Sarah Wollaston's appointment and the new status of the ICS as a statutory body will give Sarah and Jane the opportunity to take this collaboration to a whole new level.”

## **Christmas Campaign - #MyPlace**

Following on from the recent update on the #MyPlace campaign, we have now produced a festive version to help cross promote activities taking place over Christmas across the region.

The entire #MyPlace campaign has a strong sense of belonging linking to our corporate strategy, while having a vintage but friendly feel to it. Our character is primarily the crab, with the ram imagery interspersed within to incorporate those areas not along the coastline.

The aim of the campaign is to encourage residents to visit the towns and support local businesses in the run up to Christmas, boosting footfall, dwell time and spend.

The Placemaking and Communications teams have worked collaboratively to design the campaign. We have engaged with Town Councils and pulled together a list of upcoming Christmas events which are being advertised in local publications and on Facebook with funding from the EDR.

We believe this is a 'first' with the bringing together of Town Council events into one advert and coordinated promotion, something we intend to expand upon during 2022.

There is a link on the advert signposting readers to a webpage which lists further details of the events, to help monitor the success of the advertising.

Full page adverts have been placed as follows:

19 November: Kingsbridge & Salcombe Gazette, Dartmouth Chronicle, Ivybridge & South Brent Gazette, Totnes Times

3 December: The Dart, Dartmouth and The Post, Kingsbridge and Salcombe

Website Link: [www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events)

## **New Police Inspector and Best Ways to Contact the Police**

I wish to introduce myself to Members as the new Sector Inspector for the South Hams, having taken over the role from Inspector Nicky Baker this autumn.

I have 28 years' service and have spent a large proportion of this time in various safeguarding roles as well as most recently managing our Diverse Communities Teams.

I am delighted to be working in such a beautiful part of the county alongside dedicated colleagues.

Each Sergeant has a small team of Neighbourhood Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and our key role is to address issues that impact our local communities through problem solving and preventative work whilst linking to the emerging practice of trauma informed policing to address the causes of harm.

We are committed to building trusted relationships with our communities and partners so that we can work together to keep everyone safe.

There are many ways to contact Devon & Cornwall Police, including:

In an emergency - always dial 999

In a non-emergency Dial 101

E-mail: [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk)

Contact us online: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/contact/> (for all crime types) OR online reporting form (for hate crime)

Devon & Cornwall police website also provides a webchat function for non-urgent enquiries.

If you are Deaf, hard of hearing or speech-impaired:

In an emergency – SMS/text 999 or textphone/minicom 18000 (To use the Emergency SMS/text 999 your phone must be registered first. You can do this using this Relay UK link.)

Non-emergency – SMS/text 67101 or textphone/minicom 18001 101 (No need to register for our Non-Emergency SMS/text 67101)

Non-emergency – if you are a BSL user you can use SignLive.

When contacting us in a non-emergency, please consider using our online options first to leave the phone lines free for people without internet access.

Alternatively, if you are not sure who can help, why not click on AskNED – our non-emergency directory which answers a multitude of frequently asked questions.

Inspector Sally Kingdon

New South Hams Sector Police Inspector

## **Housing Position Statement & Land Supply**

The Housing Position Statement and Five Year Land Supply information is being published on our website today; Friday 12 November.

The new position for the Joint Local Plan Authorities as of 31 March 2021 is that there is a 5.8 year housing land supply from 1 April 2021 to 21 April 2026.

This is slightly lower than last year but continues to provide a robust housing land supply position and does not change the status or weight given to the five year land supply within the decision making process.

## **Household Support Fund**

From Monday 15 November, councils across Devon will all open applications for the new Household Support Fund.

The fund is designed to provide rapid short-term financial support for people who don't have enough money to buy essentials like food or pay for heating.

Anyone over 16 years old in the South Hams/West Devon could be eligible, but will need to confirm that their need is genuine.

These grants aim to help people to meet daily needs such as food, clothing and utility bills. More information, and the application form can be found at South Hams Household Support Fund.

### **Housing Team Update - Rough Sleepers**

It is a busy time of year for the Housing Team; here is an update on some of our current activities.

Firstly, I would like to confirm that South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council will be operating the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol from now until 1 March 2022.

During this time, we would be grateful if you could let us know of anyone sleeping rough and advise them to contact a member of the Housing Team (on 01803 861234 for South Hams or 01822 813600 for West Devon during office hours or 01803 867034 outside office hours for both areas) regarding the provision of accommodation over this period.

We will arrange for an outreach worker to make contact with them. This is particularly important during periods of severe weather.

Secondly, it is the time of year again when all Local Authorities are required to submit a 'snapshot' estimated figure on the number of rough sleepers in the local area during a specified night between 1 October- 30 November.

West Devon & South Hams will be submitting an estimate based on the number of people believed to be sleeping rough on the night of Monday 8 November. We will also conduct a 'snapshot' count in Totnes as our main hotspot for people sleeping rough.

We choose to submit an estimate as the most accurate way of arriving at a number because due to the large geographic areas of both South Hams and West Devon, a full count would not be able to encompass all the areas involved.

Instead we work with partnership agencies such as the police, rough sleeper drop-in centres and park rangers to collate a figure based on verified sightings of rough sleepers or individuals we have very strong reason to believe were rough sleeping on the specified night.

Some rough sleepers will never make contact with the Housing Advice Service, so it would be very helpful if you let us know of anyone sleeping rough in West Devon or South Hams. If you don't know their name, the place where they are usually found and a brief description would suffice.

The definition of a rough sleeper, for the purpose of the Government's estimate is as follows:

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or "bashes").

The information we gather through this process helps us ensure we get the most accurate figure possible to report back to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and helps us to design future services.