

May notes for Parish Councils

FCC Environment issues a service update and apologises to the residents of South Hams

Please find below a service update on the current situation with South Hams' waste and recycling service from FCC Environment.

On 1st April 2019, FCC Environment began providing all waste, recycling collection and street and toilet cleaning services on behalf of South Hams District Council extending the company's existing contract with West Devon Borough Council to deliver a range of benefits to residents in both communities.

The waste and recycling service in West Devon, which mirrors the system rolled out in South Hams, has been successfully operating for over 10 years and residents have responded well. The new recycling vehicles now in use in South Hams have been in use in West Devon since March 2018.

The new recycling system which is currently being introduced in South Hams is considered 'best in class' by many other local authorities in England, has been carefully designed to maximise the amount of materials collected for recycling. The system also delivers improved quality recycle which means the materials will go on to be recycled into new products.

Behind the scenes this system has been far from easy to implement in South Hams and FCC acknowledge that there have been service issues for some residents for which we apologise. These teething problems have resulted in some residents experiencing missed collections and we are truly sorry for any inconvenience and difficulties this has caused and continues to cause as we work with the council to rectify.

It should also be noted that the system was designed on the basis of recycling vehicles filling up once a day and being emptied at the end of the working day but due to the home working implications of lock downs through 2020-21 and residents saving recycling for the new system to launch, the vehicles can fill up, up to 2 to 3 times a day, so they need to travel back to the depot and unload each time but we are making our way through the implications of such increased volumes.

We are working hard to collect from residents that have been missed and to collect from the harder to reach properties on our rounds and we are getting there but we would ask residents, particularly those who have had repeated missed collections, to bear with us at this time.

We have been questioned about the vehicles being too large for some areas; the vehicles selected to deliver this service are state of the art recycling vehicles and they are sized to maximise the collection of recycling across the District. We do ask residents to follow council advice to place their recycling bins and boxes in the right places for collection. We appreciate for some that this may mean changes to the way their recycling has been collected previously but we ask for your support on this.

We are asking residents to bear with us in the coming weeks while these multi-faceted issues with this complex recycling scheme are ironed out and we remain confident that, once these hurdles have been overcome, that the service we have been contracted to deliver across South Hams and West Devon will deliver all of the benefits promised at the outset.

- FCC Environment

Issued 28 May 2021

Motorhomes Motor to the South Hams

South Hams District Council have unanimously agreed to progress their amended 12-month pilot motorhome plans, following Thursday's Executive committee meeting.

The District Council have agreed to the pilot scheme that will allow self-contained motorhomes and campervans, with their own toilet facilities, to stay at five South Hams car parks.

Following a comprehensive consultation with communities, which resulted in nearly 750 responses, the Executive adapted their original proposals, which resulted in new recommendations, before they agreed to the pilot scheme.

The Council are very clear that this scheme is only for self-contained motorhomes and campervans with their own on-board toilet facilities for a fee of £10 per night, overnight from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. The pilot will allow overnight sleeping for a maximum two-night consecutive stay with no return within 48 hours.

The following five car parks in these towns across the District are included in the pilot scheme:

- Ivybridge, Leonards Car Park
- Kingsbridge, Cattlemarket Car Park
- Modbury, Poundwell Meadow Overflow Car Park
- Totnes, Longmarsh Car Park
- Dartmouth, Park & Ride Car Park

The aim of the scheme is to support and increase local tourism. There are ever-increasing numbers of motorhomes and campervan users opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in the South Hams, and this is anticipated to increase because of restrictions on overseas travel due to the pandemic.

Cllr Keith Baldry, South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Environment, said: "Many businesses depend on tourists for their incomes and that is one of the key reasons why we are doing this pilot scheme, to try and encourage trade into our towns. The other reason is to help tourists who want to travel to the area without having to pre-book if they don't know where they want to stay in advance. This gives them the freedom to make the choice of where they want to stay for short periods of time and balances the needs of both residents and visitors. Both of which are exceptionally important to the Council.

"If we make it easier for those motorhome and campervan owners, who have their own toilet facilities on-board, to visit the South Hams when it's really busy and our campsites are full, then they will add to our local economy at a time when our businesses desperately need the extra support.

“We will put systems in place to ensure that visitors follow the rules, but they also have a responsibility to respect the sites they stay at and not to cause anti-social behaviour and we have confidence that they won’t. It’s up to them to make sure this works and we’ll be there to support them.”

Read more from the report which went to the Executive Committee here:

www.southhams.gov.uk/Executive

Council Listens to Public and Adapts Motorhome Plans

South Hams District Council has adapted their proposed plans after listening to over 700 responses received in the Motorhome consultation, which closed on Thursday 20 May.

The public consultation on a 12-month pilot scheme allowing self-contained motorhomes and campervans, with their own toilet facilities, to stay at some South Hams car parks has been largely met with support.

After listening to public concerns about four of the proposed locations it has been decided that North Sands in Salcombe, Memorial in Slapton and Torcross Tank in Torcross and Quay Car Park in Kingsbridge will no longer be considered for the pilot scheme. The suggested £15 tariff has now been removed along with these sites.

The results of the public consultation and a report recommending a single overnight tariff of £10, and the revised recommended sites, will now be discussed at the District Council’s Executive Committee on Thursday 27 May.

The pilot has been designed to help improve local tourism. There are ever-increasing numbers of motorhomes and campervan users opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in the South Hams, and this is anticipated to increase as a result of restrictions on overseas travel due to the pandemic.

The Council recommend stays would be at the named car parks for self-contained motorhomes and campervans only for an overnight fee of £10 per night, overnight from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. The proposed pilot will allow overnight sleeping for a maximum two-night consecutive stay with no return within 48 hours.

The following five car parks in these towns across the District are proposed to be included in the pilot scheme:

- Ivybridge, Leonards Car Park
- Kingsbridge, Cattlemarket Car Park
- Modbury, Poundwell Meadow Overflow Car Park
- Totnes, Longmarsh Car Park
- Dartmouth, Park & Ride Car Park

Cllr Keith Baldry, South Hams District Council’s Executive Member for Environment, said: “We want to do everything we can to support our businesses to get back on their feet by encouraging tourism to the South Hams. By making it easier for motorhome owners to visit

our District and to bring their money to spend in our shops, restaurants, pubs and leisure attractions, it is a step in the right direction in helping us build up our local economy and supporting our local families and communities.

“Therefore, we are delighted that so many residents have taken the time and effort to share their thoughts on this pilot scheme. We have read their comments and have listened carefully to what they have to say and in light of their thoughts; we removed four of our nine proposed sites from our considerations, leaving us with five locations to take to our Executive meeting on Thursday.

“This pilot scheme is aimed at self-contained motorhomes which have their own on board toilet facilities for short two-night stays in our car parks. To further address respondents’ concerns, if this proposal is agreed, we propose to have regular patrols by our Localities and Car Park teams who would visit sites, during peak times, to make sure sites remain clean and tidy so that locals and visitors can all appreciate the facilities.”

Read more from the report to the Executive Committee here:
www.southhams.gov.uk/Executive

If you are interested in finding out more about this decision, you can watch the meeting live on the Council’s YouTube Channel here: www.youtube.com/user/SouthHamsCouncil

Council Takes Practical Steps On Path To Help Residents Go Greener

Securing £600,000 additional funding to make local homes more energy efficient and moving forward with plans to equip the District with additional EV charging points are just two of the latest achievements in South Hams District Council’s ambitious plans to tackle climate change and increase biodiversity.

In December 2020, Members adopted an updated Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which recognised the need to take decisive action now to ensure the District becomes Net Zero by 2050. On-going monitoring, with a report every six-months, reassures Councillors and local residents that the aims outlined in this important plan are met. The latest progress will be discussed at the Council’s Executive meeting on Thursday 3 June 2021.

Key areas of progress highlighted in the report to Council include:

An additional £600,000 in Green Homes Grants has been secured, which will help improve energy efficiency in 90 more homes across the District. The grants will be used to fund around 90 Air Source Heat Pumps and External Wall Insulation installations. The £600,000 grant is in addition to the £900,000 Green Home Grant funding previously secured and will enable more local homes to benefit from energy- and money-saving improvements.

Eight new EV charging bays will be installed in Kingsbridge and Totnes at:

North Street, Totnes

Steamer Quay, Totnes

Lower Union Road, Kingsbridge

Duncombe Park, Kingsbridge

Up to £3,000 per Member will be available to support local climate change and biodiversity projects. This is due to be available from June 2021 and is in addition to the existing Members' Locality Fund.

The South Hams Climate and Biodiversity Action Fund has been launched on Crowdfunder. This provides match-funding for local projects and is backed by £200,000 funding.

A feasibility study has now been commissioned into EV charging, solar and battery storage on Council-owned car parks, exploring the potential for direct energy feed to nearby assets.

In response to feedback from the Climate Change and Biodiversity Forum, a survey into local need for shared electric vehicles and bikes is planned.

An application has been submitted for funding from the Government's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Grant in partnership with the AONB unit (as lead bidder) and Ambios (Sharpham Estate).

The success of the Council's approach to climate change and the Community Forum has been highlighted in a case study by the Local Government Association

<https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/developing-community-forum-help-tackle-climate-change-and-increase-biodiversity> The Council has also been invited to present at the Sustainable Earth Conference organised by Plymouth University in June 2021.

The report also notes the Council's 'agile' approach to working has resulted in significant carbon savings since January 2021 of an estimated 300,000 miles of travel, leading to an estimated saving of over 100tCO₂e (Tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent).

Cllr Judy Pearce, Leader of South Hams District Council, said: "We are determined to tackle the issues of climate change and biodiversity quickly and efficiently. We're taking direct action to cut our own emissions as an organisation and instigate a District-wide approach to change as well as using our position to apply for any funding that can be fed into community groups who are doing an excellent job with projects on a very local level.

"It's great to see the positive steps we have already taken to achieve our goals set out last year. Whilst switching to green energy is important, we know that reducing energy consumption is also key to achieving Net Zero goals. Insulating homes can make a big difference to emissions, as well as bills, so it's great news that we have the funding to improve insulation for many more local homes. We also know that access to more EV charging points is increasingly important as more car owners switch to electric. With more EV charging points across the District, and more in the pipeline, both local residents and our visitors will find it easier to drive green.

"We know there is still much more to be done to achieve Net Zero but residents can be reassured that our nationally recognised Community Forum is doing a fantastic job of identifying funding, projects and opportunities. I look forward to the next report in six-months, when I hope again to be able to share details of many more projects that take positive action to tackle climate change and improve biodiversity."

Since the Council declared a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency in July 2019, officers have continued to work on tasks and projects that will help the District to become

Net Zero by 2050. These include reducing the Council's own carbon emissions, continuing to work with partners, including the Devon Climate Emergency Response Group and our Joint Local Plan partners, Plymouth City Council and West Devon Borough Council, and to increase biodiversity by 10% in its green and wooded public habitats by 2025.

Any new opportunities and initiatives will be updated in the continually evolving Action Plan as they arise.

To find out more about the Council's commitment to the Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency, visit:

www.climatechange.southhams.gov.uk/achievements-and-activity

To find out more about the Green Homes Grants, please visit:

<https://southhams.gov.uk/ReduceFuelBills>

To discover the latest climate change and biodiversity news and opportunities, please sign up for our regular newsletter:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/subscriber/new>

Pop-Up Campsites on Private Land: South Hams District Council Explain What Is and Isn't Allowed

2021 is the year of the staycation, with record numbers of visitors predicted to head to the South Hams over the coming months. With some local people expected to open up their land as pop-up camping sites, South Hams District Council has advice on what is and isn't allowed.

A pop-up campsite is when a field or private land is temporarily used for a small number of tents. The Government has passed legislation to allow temporary, pop-up campsites to open for up to 56 days this year. That's an increase on the usual 28 days. Pop-up campsites do not require planning permission but there are rules you have to take into consideration.

If you are thinking of opening up a pop-up campsite on your land, here's what you need to know:

You can only accept tents.

You can only place temporary facilities on your land.

Please try and cut the grass as short as you possibly can.

Everything must be removed after 56 days.

You'll need to provide portable toilets, a hand washing station and a supply of water.

If you have a private water supply that has not been certified for commercial use you should provide potable bottled water for your visitors. If you intend temporarily extending a mains water supply you will need to check this is acceptable with South West Water waterregs@southwestwater.co.uk

You may need to put down some mats in gateways if the weather is wet, and remove them after the camp site closes.

You will need to consider how the rubbish from the site will be disposed of and arrange for this to be taken away by a licensed waste carrier.

You need to risk assess your site which must bear relation to any relevant COVID restrictions. You will need to consider the risks on your land and how you can help campers to stay safe. Think about any information that you can provide for them via email or on a temporary notice board.

You will need to manage behaviour of visitors to avoid unreasonable disturbance through loud music etc.

You must display a COVID test and trace QR code which you can download from GOV.UK.

It is your responsibility to keep yourself up-to-date with the very latest COVID guidance for the hospitality industry

Insurance can usually be provided by the insurer who insures your land for public liability. There is usually an additional charge for this.

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, South Hams District Council Lead Member for Environmental Health said: “Last year saw an increase visitors sleeping under the stars in the South Hams in pop-up campsites. We’re expecting the same again this year, and hope it will again help to give our local businesses a much needed boost as we welcome more tourists to eat, drink, stay and shop in our area. However, it’s also important that anyone planning a pop-up campsite follows the rules, to help keep everyone safe and ensure no nuisance is caused.”

To find out more, please go to: www.southhams.gov.uk/popup-campsite

South Hams CVS Volunteers' Week

South Hams CVSVolunteers' Week takes place between 1-7 June every year and is a time to recognise and thank volunteers. During an exceptionally difficult year, people from all walks of life around the UK have taken the time to volunteer and made a huge difference to people and their communities – just as they do every year.

On 3 June and 4 June, South Hams CVS will be hosting an online Volunteer Fair, presenting a range of videos from groups like you - thanking your volunteers and showing how great it is to volunteer with you. It's not too late to join in!! Message us to find out how.

Click on this link to prepare and share it with all your volunteers, members, friends and family!

www.facebook.com/groups/southhamsvolunteerfair2021/

Please click ‘join’ once – no approval is required – then you will be alerted to posts.

We'd like to encourage you to take the time to recognise volunteers that helped during the last 12 months and to thank those who usually volunteer but have not been able to because of the pandemic.

Kingsbridge groups are getting out in the fresh air on Tuesday 1 June by the Band Stand in Kingsbridge to thank their volunteers. South Hams CVS will be there too. Let us know what you're doing in your community!

Devon Climate Emergency Partnership

DCE LogoThe Devon Climate Emergency Partnership are holding a citizens' assembly this June and July. This will bring together 70 people from across Devon to address the big challenges that Devon faces in tackling climate change.

You' will find more information and dates of sessions in the document attached:-

The Devon Climate Emergency Partnership are holding a citizens' assembly this June and July which will bring together 70 people from across Devon to address the big challenges that Devon faces in tackling climate change.

Background:

This assembly is another step in the process to create the Devon Carbon Plan, which sets out how Devon can reach net-zero emissions. Many people in Devon have contributed to producing the Interim Devon Carbon Plan with actions to tackle climate change. But the Plan identified some challenging areas which require further discussion. To discuss these areas Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) are holding a citizens' assembly, the Devon Climate Assembly. A demographically representative sample of Devon's citizens from different social backgrounds, including young people over the age of 16, will form the Devon Climate Assembly. To carry out the assembly DCE have enlisted the expertise of Involve, a public participation charity very experienced in running citizens' assemblies, having recently facilitated the national Scottish Climate Assembly. Assembly members will be recruited by a civic lottery process, organised and carried out by the Sortition Foundation.

Selecting assembly members:

To create an assembly broadly representative of the demographics of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, 70 members of the public will be randomly selected to take part. To select them 14,000 letters inviting people to register their interest in taking part will be sent to households randomly selected from the Royal Mail address database. Any person aged 16 or over living in a household that receives an invitation will be able to reply by telephone or online to register their interest in participating in the assembly. Respondents will complete a form asking a number of questions that will help the selection process and ensure that the whole assembly will be demographically representative of Devon.

From the 14,000 households who receive an invitation it is expected between 3-7% will register their interest. Assembly members will be selected from the pool of respondents based on these criteria: age, gender, ethnicity, levels of deprivation including income, education and health, geography, rurality, disability and attitude towards climate change. DCE have worked with Involve and Sortition to ensure that the specifics of these criteria reflect Devon. For

example, to ensure Devon's rural communities are represented in the assembly the criteria includes at least 1 person from Dartmoor and 1 from Exmoor. Again, to ensure all districts of Devon are represented, there will be 7 members from each of the 10 districts (or as close to this as the algorithm can produce whilst meeting all other criteria).

To ensure all members of the community are represented, the random selection process will weight certain demographics. For example, it is expected that responses from households in more deprived areas will be underrepresented. To counter this, 20% of households receiving an invitation will be randomly selected from households in postcodes with a low index of multiple deprivation. Within the 14,000 we are sending invites to a random selection of residential adult care homes across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, asking that the invite is shared with the residents. All children's home providers will be emailed the invite so that their eligible residents can express their interest in participating. Residents who wish to nominate themselves will become part of the pool of Devon residents from which 70 people will then be selected to participate in the Devon Climate Assembly.

Assembly members will receive £400 as a thank you for their time, plus associated childcare costs. Invitations will be sent out to 14,000 households on the 11th of May. The deadline for registering interest is the 24th of May.

The assembly process:

The assembly will take place over 3 weekends and two weekday evenings in June and July and will go through a three-step process of learning, deliberation and decision-making. The overarching question is 'How should Devon meet the big challenges of climate change?' Within this, the assembly will focus on transport, energy and land use, which prior public consultation has said need further discussion. It will consider how we can create a Devon where people and nature thrive, including benefits such as warmer, more efficient homes, healthier and more active lifestyles, changing workplaces and emerging industries and ways to enhance wildlife in our urban and rural areas.

Members will learn about the topics and engage with each other through a variety of different formats during the assembly sessions, including short presentations, Q&A discussions, videos and written text. Deliberation of the evidence they have learnt about will take part in small group break out discussions. Break out groups will be changed at regular points to ensure that members get a chance to discuss with a diversity of people. The key points from breakout groups will be reported back to the plenary group.

Evidence presented to the assembly by expert speakers and witnesses will be recorded and made available on the Devon Climate Emergency YouTube channel. To allow for in depth discussion, breakout group discussions will not be made publicly available.

Decisions will be made democratically, with draft recommendations made in small group discussions being shared for the wider assembly to review. These recommendations will be finalised based on whole group feedback and then the assembly will take a vote to demonstrate the level of support for the recommendations. The recommendations will be published on the Devon Climate Emergency website in October 2021.

The Devon Climate Emergency partnership, which includes all Devon's Local Authorities, will respond to each of the recommendations of the assembly in order to complete the Devon Carbon Plan.

The Assembly sessions:

Wednesday 23 June, 7-9pm

Saturday 26 June, 10am-12.30pm and 2-4pm

Sunday 27 June, 10am-12.30pm

Wednesday 7 July, 7-9pm

Saturday 10 July, 10am-2.30pm and 2-4pm

Sunday 11 July, 10am-12.30pm

Saturday 24 July, 10am-12.30pm and 2-4pm

Sunday 25 July, 10am-12.30pm

You can find out more information and keep up to date with the Devon Climate Assembly process at www.devonclimateemergency.org/citizens-assembly/

Climate Change and Biodiversity Update

EarthWe have recently been featured in a case study by the Local Government Association about our Climate Change and Biodiversity Community Forum.

We've had three meetings so far in South Hams, focusing on increasing awareness of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme, seeking input on our Crowdfunder Eligibility criteria, and hearing from CoCars director Mark Hodgeson and scope for new locations in the South Hams.

We've had agreement from the Forum members to publish a list of their names and affiliations, which will be done in due course as part of a Climate Change and Biodiversity Website update.

In addition, we have also been selected to host a marketplace session at Sustainable Earth 2021, organised by the Sustainable Earth Institute at Plymouth University. The conference will be a remote affair this year, but registration is free
<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/institutes/sustainable-earth/se21>.

Our marketplace session slot is being finalised but it's indicated to be Marketplace session 4, taking place between 14:10 - 15:00 on Friday, 25 June.

Fitness fans jump for joy as indoor group exercise returns to the South Hams with special 5.45am class to celebrate

Fusion Lifestyle and South Hams District Council are pleased to announce that in line with the government roadmap, indoor group exercise will return to Ivybridge, Dartmouth, Totnes, and Quayside Leisure Centres from 17 May.

To mark the occasion and welcome early morning fitness fans back indoors, special classes will be held at 5.45am at Ivybridge Leisure Centre (BODYPUMP™ and Group Cycle) and Quayside Leisure Centre (Group Cycle). Classes can be booked via the Fusion app.

In England, pre-Covid 4.86million people took part in group exercise each week. A significant proportion of UK residents rely on this activity as means of exercise for their health and wellbeing.

The restarting of indoor group exercise at all Fusion Lifestyle centres the area means that residents can enjoy the full range of Les Mills classes again including BODYPUMP™, as well as Zumba, yoga, Pilates, indoor cycle and all their other favourites. The good news doesn't stop there, for those who have been enjoying working out in the fresh air, outdoor group exercise classes at Ivybridge Leisure Centre will continue too.

The centres will continue to operate in line with government safety guidelines and those planning to visit will still be required to book and pay online, to ensure contact is minimised at each centre and allowing for the track and trace process to be implemented. Gym users and group exercise participants will be asked to arrive ready to work out, ready to go. These measures, combined with meticulous cleaning routines, are designed to keep customers safe and offer complete confidence to use the facilities when they return to the centre.

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins South Hams District Council's Executive member for Health and Wellbeing said: "This is great news for the South Hams. It's such a positive step for the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents."

Anthony Cawley, Director of Operations at Fusion said: "It's a really positive step to be able to restart indoor group exercise classes. We know how popular group exercise is and we're excited to offer this one-off early class to celebrate the full return of our classes. Our instructors can't wait to get back to offering the full timetable of classes. We are really pleased that we will be able to continue to offer some outdoor classes too, making sure we're giving our members as much choice as possible."

All centres will be open daily, but please refer to the individual centre's websites for opening hours. Bookings can be made up to seven days in advance, via download of the Fusion Lifestyle app or visit www.fusion-lifestyle.com to register and use the online booking facility.