

**Report from Hilary Bastone – (My November notes for Parish Councils)**

**THIS MONTH'S TOPICS**

**DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL**

**Affordable homes in South Brent**

**Cost of Living Community Action Fund South Hams**

**UNISON Training Courses in 2023**

**Devon Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

**Cost of Living and Winter Wellbeing Fund - Community Grants**

**Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

**Visit Devon Partnership**

**New Facebook Group Page**

**#MyPlace Christmas Campaign**

**Health & Wellbeing**

**Cost of Living help and guidance**

**Boundary Commission Review of England's Constituencies**

**Waste Update**

**Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest**

**Garden waste service subscriptions are now live**

**Dartmouth Lower Ferry Winter Refit Announced**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**THIS MONTH'S TOPICS IN MORE DETAIL:-**

**DECLARATION OF RESULT OF POLL**

**South Hams District Council**

**Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan for**

**Dartmouth Neighbourhood Area**

I Helen Amanda Jarvis, being the Deputy Counting Officer at the above referendum held on Thursday 24 November 2022, do hereby give notice that the result of the votes cast is as follows:

#### Question

Do you want South Hams District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

#### Votes Recorded Percentage

Number cast in favour of a Yes 618 88.29%

Number cast in favour of a No 82 11.71%

The number of ballot papers rejected was as follows: Number of ballot papers

A want of an official mark

B voting for more answers than required

C writing or mark by which voter could be identified 2

D being unmarked or wholly void for uncertainty

E rejected in part

Total 2

Electorate: 3955 Ballot Papers Issued: 702 Turnout: 17.75%

### **Affordable homes in South Brent**

Families are invited to join a community led scheme in the South Brent area, which plans to provide affordable, energy efficient homes for those with a local connection, who have the financial ability to buy a share in a property.

South Brent Community Land Trust (CLT) is working with South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) to bring forward a scheme of up to twelve affordable homes of two, three and four bedrooms to be offered to qualifying residents at 65% of open market value.

Homes have been designed with low running costs and will be laid out in an attractive, nature and family friendly setting. The site plans include a natural play area, small orchard & wild meadow with recreation space.

Families with a local connection to South Brent or the local Dartmoor parishes of Dean Prior, Rattery, Ugborough and Dartmoor Forest by way of either residency or previous residency,

family and/or upbringing or current employment and who do not already own a house, may be eligible for one of the affordable homes.

Applicants will need a deposit and mortgage to support the part-buy share of the home, with the part-rent element set at affordable rates.

“We want our homes to be the best possible and our local SHDC councillors, also involved in the scheme, are very keen that these will be quality homes and efficient to live in and economic to run,” says Tim McGill, one of South Brent Community Land Trust Trustees.

“There have been many challenges over the years, and we expect the present financial turmoil will add to the challenges ahead of us, but we press on, we have learned to be emotionally economical with our expectations. The group is determined and steadfast to achieve its mission, completing it as close as possible to our original intention that people of the community don’t get priced out of their community.”

Jo Holland, Company Secretary of the South Brent Community Land Trust, added: “This is an opportunity for people local to South Brent struggling with long term housing security to have their own, energy efficient, quality home and built within attractive, green surrounds; designed to enhance the community and ecology. As it will remain affordable in perpetuity it will be a wonderful legacy for the community of South Brent for generations to come.”

Cllr Peter Smerdon, South Hams District Council’s Ward Member and Dartmoor National Park Member for South Brent, said: “I’ve been involved with the CLT right from their early days. Both myself and my fellow District Councillor, Guy Pannell, are fully supportive of this scheme and hope it will provide an interesting alternative route to providing affordable homes in South Brent.”

The CLT is looking to complete the list of housing allocations and there are only a few spaces left, although eligible applicants can also join the waiting list.

This housing scheme came about, with the CLT group forming in 2014, because some residents of South Brent and surroundings were finding it impossible to stay in the village where they live and work because of the increase in housing costs.

This scheme aims to help households who would like their own home but are stuck renting at high cost or are in insecure or unsuitable housing. Providing housing for people local to the village helps maintain a strong community and protects the long-term economic health of the parish.

Families who meet the local connection test and who join the Community Land Trust will be able to buy their homes on a shared ownership basis, with a minimum purchase stake of 25% and a minimum rental factor of 25%.

Anyone wanting to register their interest in one of the South Brent CLT affordable homes should contact [southbrentclt@gmail.com](mailto:southbrentclt@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

**Cost of Living Community Action Fund South Hams**

Voluntary groups in South Hams are invited to apply now for their share of a £50,000 funding pot to support community projects across the District.

Part of the Council's cost of living response plan, South Hams District Council has launched two new grant schemes for local voluntary and community groups. Worth up to £2,500 per group, the money can be used for projects or schemes that are working to directly support residents through the cost of living crisis. Whilst also supporting the broader health and wellbeing of local people.

Winter Wellbeing Fund aims to support activities with up to £2,500 towards addressing residents' wider health and wellbeing impacts such as:

Improving mental health and wellbeing

Activities that promote participation in activities to disadvantaged and isolated groups

Cost-of-Living Action Fund is an opportunity to bid for up to £1,000 for community schemes that directly contribute to the cost of living. This could include creating and operating warm banks, or providing warm meal clubs for residents etc.

Cllr Nicky Hopwood, South Hams District Council's Lead Member for Cost of Living, said: "So many of our communities in South Hams are already doing a fantastic job of supporting those people most in need. Providing warm spaces and places to congregated so people do not feel alone this winter. Many of these community already have good support networks of voluntary groups and organisations that are well placed to provide the kind of health and wellbeing that is required.

That is why we are making this money available to them, so that they can continue the good work they have begun.

"Whether your local community group or club needs money to organise a special project or to give you the resources to help more people, get in touch. Tell us what you want to do to improve wellbeing in South Hams and how the money will help you achieve this. The online form is quick and simple to fill in, and your group could benefit by up to £2,500."

The scheme opened for applications on Monday 21 November.

To apply for funding, go to: [www.southhams.gov.uk/winter-fund](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/winter-fund)

### **UNISON Training Courses in 2023**

South West Devon UNISON are hoping to run the following training courses in 2023. We hope that they will be available, at no cost, to members and non-members but we will be able to confirm this in due course. Ideally each course will run twice – once at Totnes and once at Kilworthy Park.

The courses we hope to run are:

Dementia Awareness (run by Age UK)

Autism Awareness (run by Beyond Autism UK)

Deaf Awareness (run by RNID)

In order that we can get a rough idea of numbers, if you are interested in one or more of these courses, please could you let us know using the link below.

<https://forms.gle/A2iwzFz2qr7GG1XVA>

We will update you early in the New Year with proposed dates and details.

South West Devon UNISON

## **Devon Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme**

The winter Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) is now available for families across Devon.

The aim of the HAF programme is to support children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with school and other local services.

A list of providers is available here:

HAF Providers Winter 2022

You will see some providers are offering hampers as well for families. The offer at Christmas is two sessions face to face of four hours, including a hot meal and hampers, or four sessions face to face, including a hot meal and hampers.

The programme is taking place in four different locations around Devon, with both the South Hams and West Devon falling under the umbrella of "South and West Devon".

Feel free to share the above link with residents.

## **Cost of Living and Winter Wellbeing Fund - Community Grants**

As you will be aware, through our Cost-of-Living Response Plan it was agreed that we would launch two funds to enable communities to respond locally.

I'm pleased to advise that the grant applications are now open until 16 December.

Grant Fund 1 – A total of £25,000 available for schemes directly responding to cost of living – operating of warm hubs, provision of warm meals to vulnerable residents etc. Grants can be up to a maximum of £1,000.

Grant Fund 2 – A total of £25,000 available for schemes that will support wider Health and Wellbeing – both physical and mental. We will look favourably on applications trying something a little different and so, groups can apply for up to £2,500 from this fund.

Find out more here: [www.southhams.gov.uk/winter-fund](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/winter-fund)

## **Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

Electric car 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 Strategy

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.

The strategy will form part of a suite of documents that will feed into the emerging Local Transport Plan 4. The strategy will also be instrumental in leveraging funding from Government for new electric charging infrastructure. You can view a summary of the strategy or the full document at: [devon.cc/ev-strategy-consultation](https://devon.cc/ev-strategy-consultation)

### Have Your Say

The consultation will run between now and 16 December. To have your say on the consultation questionnaire, [click here](#).

You can also attend a consultation webinar to hear from project officers about the details of the strategy and ask questions:

Public Webinar: 6pm, 22 November 2022

Businesses/Organisations Webinar: 6pm, 6 December 2022

To register or ask any further questions please email: [transportplanning@devon.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@devon.gov.uk)

### Visit Devon Partnership

As mentioned in our last update, we have now signed up to an annual partnership with Visit Devon to help promote the tourism sector in the region and attract more visitors to West Devon.

Visit Devon has an events section on their website, and you can add any Christmas events you would like them to promote by uploading information on their event request page: [www.visitdevon.co.uk/whats-on/tell-us-about-your-event](https://www.visitdevon.co.uk/whats-on/tell-us-about-your-event)

## **New Facebook Group Page**

Due to the limited space available on the adverts and website to list events across the whole region, we have also produced a new Facebook group page for parish councils to list their own event information.

This page can then be used for event listings throughout the year and will attract more visits over time as it develops.

We will asking members and parish councils to populate the page with any events they know about. We will also promote the page to residents via our corporate social media channels and on the Christmas webpage too to ensure the parishes gain the same promotion of events as the towns.

Any parish council can join the group to promote their event and any resident can join so that they can be kept informed about what is happening in their area.

The Facebook page can be found at: Events in the South Hams

## **#MyPlace Christmas Campaign**

With Christmas just around the corner, we have been working closely with the Communications Team to prepare this year's #MyPlace Christmas campaign.

We have been liaising with Town Councils to collate event information and will be producing a print advert for both By The Dart and The Post – both due out for publication at the beginning of December.

We will also include information on the South Hams District Council website at: [www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events) and carry out social media promotion in the run up to Christmas across the Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

(Please note that the website page will be live by the end of November)



Local football clubs have an exciting funding opportunity from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation.

Across the country, poor quality pitches act as a barrier to participation in sport by causing thousands of matches to be called off each season and negatively impacting the enjoyment of those playing in the games that do go ahead.

That's why the Football Foundation is on a mission to transform the state of grass pitches across England and have made grants of up to £12,800 per pitch available to help clubs and organisations improve their playing surface.

Local football clubs and organisations in your area can unlock this funding using PitchPower – the Football Foundation's revolutionary free grass pitch inspection web app. Using your mobile phone or tablet, you can complete a pitch inspection at the touch of a button.

Three-day guest pass at our leisure centres

Fusion

Fusion Lifestyle is committed to helping every West Devon resident by making a FREE 3-day swim or gym pass available to all. Claim your pass and discover how regular exercise can make you feel great and improve your health.

There's no better time to come and try out the gym, or have a swim, entirely for FREE! Fusion ensures that you'll feel healthier, happier and ready to get more from life.

Sign up to your nearest Fusion Leisure Centres to get your 3-day pass today.

Ivybridge Leisure Centre

Dartmouth Leisure Centre

QuaySide Leisure Centre

Totness Leisure Centre

'Active Together' - Sport England Funding

Sport England

Crowdfunding is a great way to raise essential funds. Sport England's Active Together programme is a COVID-19 pandemic recovery fund, helping sport and physical activity organisations to move forward with priority projects and running costs that they might still be struggling with.

It can help with projects that cannot be afforded right now due to the impact coronavirus continues to have on an organisation's normal income streams, as well as a broader spectrum of issues that most of us now face.

It is a fund about recovery, reinvention and building resilience.

With your help, Active Together could contribute to:

Facility refurbishments, maintenance or improvements

Adapting your facility to ensure a safe return to play

Running new activity to meet demand, post-pandemic, helping your community to recover

Unforeseen events continuing to impact on your finances – fire, theft, vandalism or adverse weather

The emerging energy crisis – changing your facility to lower your energy consumption.



Want to find out more?

Active Devon National Active Campaigns

We Are Undefeatable

"We Are Undefeatable" is a movement supporting people with a range of long-term health conditions, developed by 15 leading health and social care charities and backed by expertise, insight and significant National Lottery funding from Sport England.

Their purpose is to support and encourage finding ways to be active that work with each person's conditions, not against them.

When managing a health condition, it is vital that each person discovers what works for them when it comes to being active and finding ways to move.

We are Undefeatable has created a list of activity inspiration for people managing a health condition on their website.

We are undefeatable

Millions of people are joining the community by posting their photos on social media by attaching the hashtag #WeAreUndefeatable. Join the community now!

MHUK

Mental Health UK

Mental Health UK brings together the experience of four charities from across the country, who've been supporting people with their mental health for nearly 50 years.

The organisation provides support and services for some of the biggest societal challenges that pose a threat to people's mental health, including money problems, navigating through the system to get the right support, understanding mental health, loneliness and isolation, and resilience in young people.

Cost Of Living Support

In the UK, it is estimated that 50% of people in debt also experience a mental health problem. And one in five people experiencing a mental health problem also experiences money issues.

Mental Health UK offer money advice where they share information, support and advice on their Mental Health and Money Advice Website.

Mental Health and Money Advice were set up in 2017 to help people better understand, manage, and improve their financial and mental health.

Eight Stress Awareness Day Activities

This National Stress Awareness Day try out these eight activities for new ways to cope with stress. Most of these can be done in under ten minutes, so even if you're rushed off your feet, you'll be able to find something here to help.

Do Something Creative

Did you know that there is a specific section of our brain that stimulates creative activities and thoughts? Doing activities such as: Draw, Sing, Cook can help relieve feelings of stress.

### Get Outside

Being outside in nature is great for our wellbeing. Going for a short walk or sitting in a green space can have an extremely calming effect on how we feel.

### Move your body

Exercise is a very effective way to combat stress. When we exercise our bodies release endorphins which help us feel good. You could go for a walk, or dance around your living room to your favourite songs.

### Meditation and Mindfulness

Meditation is the practice of noticing your emotions and gaining a sense of perspective on them. It's typically done by sitting or lying down in a quiet place and focusing on your breathing.

### Write it down

You'd be surprised what a relief it can be to write down what you're thinking and feeling. Just remember, you're not writing for someone else to read, it's for yourself to get down on paper what you're feeling.

### Do something you enjoy

When we're really busy it's easy to eliminate the things, we enjoy from our schedule. Doing things you enjoy helps relieve stress and relaxes your body and mind.

### Talk to someone

Speaking to a friend, loved one, colleague or therapist can help you to lighten the load you may be feeling. The person you're talking to may also be able to help you organise your thoughts, create an action plan, or take some tasks off your plate.

### Listen to music

Sometimes belting out the lyrics to a cheesy ballad makes everything seem all right. If you're in a public place, listening to your favourite music can help you feel better quickly. Classical music can be especially relaxing right before bedtime.

Mental Health UK offer services and support on their website, where they also encourage donations which go towards various forms of support. They offer services such as online consultations (via telephone), Clic which is their online community of likeminded people where you can speak freely and openly about your feelings, Local support which offer local support groups.



## **How You Can Help Others in the South Hams**

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting every household, and whilst we all recognise that things are tough, there are things we can all do to help those who are struggling the most.

Cllr Nicky Hopwood, South Hams Lead Member for the Cost of Living said “South Hams District Council recognises that the response to this crisis need to be one of collaboration, we can all look out for our neighbours and help those people who are in desperate need.

"If you are really concerned for people in your community, and want to do more to help, there are a few things that you might want to consider doing.”

### **Volunteer with Citizens Advice**

#### **Citizens Advice**

If you enjoy working as part of a team, want to meet new people, enhance your CV or learn new skills, then consider volunteering with your local Citizens Advice office!

As a volunteer at Citizens Advice, you don't need any specific qualifications or experience.

You'll need to be friendly and approachable and have a respect for views, values and cultures that are different to your own.

Some roles may require you to have good IT skills, be a good listener, or have good written skills.

If this sounds like something you are interested in, find out more or contact Citizens Advice by clicking [here](#).

### **Support foodbanks and community fridges**

#### **Food bank**

We're all seeing the price of our weekly food shop increase and for many people, they will be having to make the choice between heating their home and feeding their family.

Foodbanks provide basic stocks of food and provisions, free of charge. Usually, foodbanks offer emergency provision only with a limited number of visits available, but all foodbanks have slightly different rules and most are offering flexibility on the number of visits.

Foodbanks particularly appreciate foods with a long shelf life, including:

Tinned soup

Pasta

Cereal

Tinned beans and much more

You can locate your nearest foodbank here.

Community fridges and larders offer food for free that would have otherwise gone to waste; this can be items with a short date or damaged packaging from local businesses.

Anyone who has too much produce from an allotment harvest or from emptying a fridge prior to a move, can also donate food. anyone can take food from a community fridge – they aren't targeted, and they won't always have food available as surplus food is very unpredictable.

Let a property with Seamoor Lettings

SeaMoor Lettings is an 'ethical' lettings service run within the Council's Housing Options team. They are 'ethical' because they work with landlords to ensure that the properties they offer to tenants are of a good standard, and rented out at an 'affordable' rent. That's something that is very difficult to find right now!

SeaMoor Lettings charge a very low rate of commission to cover the services and they support tenants, and landlords, to ensure they are operating their tenancies legally and correctly. As a result, most of their tenants remain in their homes long term, with several tenants being in the same property for five to ten years!

The scheme was established to support local people to stay within South Hams and West Devon and to address the difficulty in finding affordable homes in the private rented sector.

The SeaMoor team would like to take this opportunity to thank all our existing landlords for the service they are helping us to provide. By letting your properties through SeaMoor at affordable rents you are making a huge difference to your tenants' lives and to your community.

If you would like to know more contact SeaMoor Lettings:

[Seamoor.Lettings@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Seamoor.Lettings@swdevon.gov.uk)

Open a communal 'warm space'

Do you have a free event or a place that can provide a communal warm space where local people can gather together this winter?

Let us know about your free warm spaces and can make sure that local people know where to come and how to access the space.

Email your warm space to: [communications@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:communications@swdevon.gov.uk)

Cost of Living - How you can help

Stay Warm Safely This Winter

More people are finding different methods to keep their house and themselves warm this winter.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service is offering advice on how to heat your home while staying safe and preventing the risk of fire.

Portable heaters

Using open fires or log/wood burners

Using items which need power or charging

Using candles

[Click Here To Find Out More Button PNG](#)

[How You Can Save Energy and Money at Home](#)

[Reduce your Boiler Flow Temperature](#)

[White heating boiler with copper pipes beneath](#)

Boilers often have a default temperature that is sent to radiators which is set higher than needed. This reduces the efficiency of your boiler. Depending on the type of boiler you have, its efficiency can be improved by locating the 'flow temperature' dial/setting on the boiler and adjusting it to a lower temperature of 60 degrees. Reducing your boiler flow temperature could save you approximately £100 per year.

Reducing your boiler's flow temperature is not the same as reducing the temperature on your thermostat and won't reduce the temperature of your home but may increase the time it takes for your home to reach the target temperature on your thermostat. People over 65, or with pre-existing health conditions, may want to set a slightly higher flow temperature before lowering it further to ensure your home warms up quickly enough.

[Find out how to reduce your flow temperature by following NESTA's simple guide.](#)

[Turn Down Radiators when Rooms Are Unused](#)

Most radiators are fitted with valves that control the temperature of a room by changing the flow of hot water to the radiator. These valves are often misused as 'on/off' switches, and in rooms which aren't used all day such as bedrooms, or rooms which you don't use regularly, these can often be set too high.

These valves are usually marked with a scale from 0 – 6, where zero (0) is off and six (6) is fully open. They can be adjusted by twisting them clockwise or anti-clockwise. Aim for the lowest setting that keeps the room to your desired temperature. A lower setting reduces the volume of hot water, using less energy and saving you money – approximately £70 per year.

[Stop Heat Escaping by Draught-Proofing](#)

[White sash paned window with brown shutters](#)

Draught-proofing is one of the cheapest and most effective ways that you can take to stop the heat escaping and reduce your energy bills by approximately £70 per year:

By blocking unwanted gaps around windows, doors and the floor that let the cold air in and warm air out, you'll use less energy to heat your home. Energy Saving Trust provide advice on how to draught proof your property

Window film is a form of temporary secondary glazing. By installing window film on your windows, you can help stop heat escaping through the glass. You can buy window film at most hardware shops and online and install it yourself or with the help of a professional.

## Cost of Living Payment

### Help for Household

Over eight million households are set to receive the second part of the £650 Cost of Living Payment to help with the rising cost of living.

From 8 November and continuing through to the 23 November, the second payment of £324 will automatically be paid into the bank accounts of most of those eligible in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who receive a qualifying DWP benefit.

This means they will not need to do anything to receive the money. Eligible customers who receive tax credits and no other eligible benefits from DWP will receive their payment from HMRC between 23 and 30 November.

To be eligible for the second payment, families must have been entitled to a payment (or later found to be entitled to a payment) of

either:

Universal Credit for an assessment period that ended in the period 26 August to 25 September, income-based JSA, income related ESA, Income Support or Pension Credit for any day in the period 26 August 2022 to 25 September 2022.

For tax credit-only customers, an annual award of at least £26 for the 2022/23 tax year, of tax credits for any day in the

period 26 August to 25 September 2022.

The DWP will pay a small number of payments on 8 November, with numbers increasing significantly from 9 November. Customers

do not need to contact the Government or apply for the payment at any stage.

## **Boundary Commission Review of England's Constituencies**

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is redrawing constituency boundaries in order to rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP, and a final consultation on proposed new constituencies is now open.

A new revised map of constituency proposals, which takes into account feedback sent in by the public on the initial proposals, has been published on the consultation website [bcereviews.org.uk](https://bcereviews.org.uk).

Send in your views before the closing date of 5 December to have your say on new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

## **Waste Update**

The free garden waste service has now ended and on Monday this week, the subscription service opened up for residents to sign up ready for service commencement in the spring. We have had a really good response rate so far, with over 1000 subscribers to date.

Service performance across the board continues to be consistent and remains well ahead of our expectations after the first month.

All rounds have been deployed since 5 October and other aspects of the service are all maintained. To note the difference, I was in the pub the other night and was approached by a resident, who asked me if we had changed all of the staff because the improvement was so stark in their eyes! This is a real credit to the waste team! Well done.

Work is still ongoing to look at delivering improvements across the services, particularly with the waste collections.

Our route optimisation team have just completed interviews with all of our Romaquip crews to understand the challenges they face. This will feed into the wider improvement programme, along with feedback from Members, Towns and Parishes which has also been submitted.

All outcomes and recommendations will be reported at the Executive on 1 December.

## **Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest**

The Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) is one of England's newest Community Forests and a partnership project between Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, West Devon Borough Council, National Trust and Woodland Trust.

The project aims to deliver 500 hectares of new woodland by March 2025 and is funded by 'Trees for Climate' until March 2025 as part of the Department for Environment, Food, & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 'Nature for Climate' fund which is being delivered by England's Community Forests.

The boundary of the PSDCF has been extended further into South Hams and West Devon, offering potential support to many more landowners and communities to develop and undertake woodland creation (see the eligible area in full detail by clicking the link to this map). This support will cover numerous planting types, including large-scale woodland creation through to hedgerows, agroforestry, and other small-scale planting below one hectare.

The grant scheme has just started to welcome applications, with funding available until 2025 for woodland creation (including design, planning and planting advice, support for fencing, gates, paths as well as trees themselves), with ongoing funding to support the maintenance of the trees.

The PSDCF are also hosting two online events over the next week offering an opportunity to learn more about the funding that is available to eligible landowners within the project on Wednesday 9 November at 7 p.m. to

8 p.m. and Saturday 12 November at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone interested can register using the following link: Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest | Eventbrite

If you know of a landowner, farmer, Parish Council, school or community that may be interested, please encourage them to either register for the event, or contact the PSDCF team to arrange a discussion of their plans at [psdcf@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:psdcf@plymouth.gov.uk)

### **Garden waste service subscriptions are now live**

Residents of the South Hams can now register for the new chargeable fortnightly garden waste subscription service, which has gone live on our website.

Collections will begin in March 2023 - those wanting to get their first collection in March will need to have signed up to the service by 22 January 2023.

An annual £49 subscription covers one brown bin, with a maximum subscription of two bins per household.

Residents can keep their garden waste wheellie bin even if they choose not to subscribe to this service. Old garden waste bins can be recycled into a composter, water butt or used for garden storage.

For more information on the garden waste service and to subscribe, visit:

[www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

### **Dartmouth Lower Ferry Winter Refit Announced**

Safety comes first and after a busy summer period crossing back and forwards across the river Dart, it's time for the hard-working Lower Ferry Floats to receive some well-earned recovery time.

With the quieter winter months approaching, the Dartmouth Lower Ferry will be moving to its winter rota from Monday 31 October until next Easter.

As with other years, this means there will be a single ferry service running to allow for the annual refits of the tugs and floats.

There are two floats in total, two Tom's and three Hauley's IV, V and VI and they all need to be kept in tip-top condition to help keep the district's traffic moving from side to side.

The first float, Tom Avis, will be docked for a refit from Monday 7 November for six weeks, followed by the Tom Casey at the beginning of February. Hauley V and Hauley VI will start their refits in November.

The refits are all an essential as part of the Maritime Coastguard Agency safety inspections to make sure the annual passenger certificate is continued.

South Hams District Council's Executive Member for Commercial Strategy, Cllr Hilary Bastone, said: "We will be using extra staff on the single ferry to speed up the service, during



the annual refits to keep the impact on passengers as low as possible. This means our crossings will not be much slower than when both ferries are operating.

“As always the safety of our passengers and staff is our primary concern so these annual refits are an essential part of the smooth running of the service.”

If there is a need during the winter period to increase to two ferries, for instance when the Higher Ferry carries out its own annual service, then we will briefly fill this gap to support our local residents and commuters.

For more information on the ferry, please visit: [www.southhams.gov.uk/dartmouthlowerferry](http://www.southhams.gov.uk/dartmouthlowerferry)