

REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2021 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE

Thankfully we are now heading towards Spring and during the last few days we have been enjoying some very welcome sunshine .the days are starting to lengthen and we can hopefully see light at the end of the tunnel. It looks like it will take some time and we must all stick to the rules even if we have received our Covid Vaccination or not .More vaccination centres are being rolled out and we hope to have more facilities locally.

At South Hams Council the setting of The Council's portion of the Council Tax was set at The Full Council meeting on 11/February. This was set at £175.42 or an increase of £5.00 for a Band D property. The average amount payable on a Band D property when all the precepting authorities have been added together is £2,090.50p which is an increase of £99.73 on 20/21.this was set by the Council's Council Tax Setting Panel on 23/2/2021.

There is help available for various grants, help for the clinically vulnerable, hardship funding, including help with paying Council Tax, providing internet access and tablets for Home Schooling. If the council does not provide help with a service required we can point an enquiry in the right direction for assistance.

We will be having a new recycling service which is starting to roll out across the District from the 8th March .it is likely to start in the Ivybridge area first and roll out across the District by the end of May. Households will have had or will be receiving leaflets to inform them of what is coming and what goes in each box etc. When the new containers are delivered they will contain Full Instructions on how to use them and you can start using them straight away...this is now a Devon wide recycling service and it is hoped it will increase the Council recycling rate to near 60% there is detailed information on The Council's website and also on face book page. There will no longer be the need for the clear and plastic sacks.

There is a review of The Council's democratic decision making process on going at present. Included are proposals to hold more Full Council meetings possibly 6 instead of 4 per year. This is proposed in order to speed important decision making and shorten the the time of Full Council Meetings. And to review ways of working within The Committee structure.

We have also spent a lot of time reviewing the Regeneration of Ivybridge and helping to rejuvenate the main street and various facilities there including a new supermarket.

Let's hope that we will soon be able to get back to having face to face meetings, hopefully sometime in the summer?

Take care, stay safe.

Rosemary.