

## SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2022 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE.

During this month quite a lot of time has been spent going over previous recommendations made by the Council. To make sure we are up to date as we come to the end of the life of this Council which ends in May next year when the next round of local elections take place.

The most notable of these is bringing the waste collection services back in house. This has been a success and there have been very few rounds when a lorry has not been able to go out for collections on the day they should have done. There have been very few missed collections which is how it should be and what householders expect from the council.

So far approx. 3,000 householders have signed up for the green waste collection service which starts in the spring 2023 at a cost of £ 49.00 per annum for fortnightly collections. The team are currently working on sorting out the collection rounds for this. So please sign up as soon as possible to help get the rounds sorted on time.

**BUDGETS.** We are all working on our budgets at present. We are responsible for producing a balanced budget by law. South Hams Council is responsible for collecting all the Council Tax components for Devon C.C., The Police Authority, Fire Authority and the Town and Parish councils. 9% of the total amount collected is actually kept by The District.

It will not be easy to set budgets as we are aware that there is a cost of living crisis. However we have recently set up cost of living grants. They are available to communities across the South Hams for voluntary and community groups Up to £2,500.00 is available per group to support residents through the cost of living crisis and the general health and well being of members of the community.

We have been looking at The Council Tax Reduction Scheme to support residents on low incomes. Claims are banded and can be made on line. It is available to those on Universal or Pension credit via the D.W.P. who will notify the District Council. The customer Services team at South Hams will assist with applications too. The Pensioners Scheme is based on savings and income. A person must not have more than £ 16,00.00 in savings and the basic pension allowance of no more than £195.10 for a single person and £294.80 for a couple to qualify for a reduction in council Tax.

There is more information on The Council website about this and much more on how to obtain assistance with cost of living assistance grants.

This is my last report for this year. I hope that you will all have a pleasant and peaceful time and can do whatever you wish for yourselves, your family and friends over the Christmas and New Year Period.

Take care & stay safe, Rosemary.

