

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2023 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE.

Hopefully the dark dreary days of January are behind us, it has been quite a miserable month cold and at times wet. We look forward to better days ahead with the approach of Spring as we move into February.

We are now heading towards the end of the Life of this Council as there are District Council and other local Elections taking place on Thursday 4th May 2023. One notable change will be that those voting in person will need to take I.D. With them to the polling station in order to be able to vote in person.

We have all been working on our Budgets for the coming year 2023/24 and South Hams is proposing to increase their portion of the Council Tax by £5.00 for the year on a Band D property. This will equate to 2.77% increase. And will mean that the amount payable to South Hams will be £ 185.42 for 23/24 This equates to 8% Of the total council tax bill. A decision will be made at Full Council on Thursday 16th February 2023 We know that the Police Authority is raising its share of the Council Tax to enable them to put more officers on the beat and open up more front line desks. Please read your Council Tax demand when you receive it so that you understand where all the money goes.

The E/V Charging points are being installed across The District in partnership with D.C.C. and other local Authorities and a selected supplier .i.e. Scottish Power on a 10 year lease. Car parks with installations at present include Mayors Avenue in Dartmouth ,and at least one car park in Kingsbridge, Salcombe,Ivybridge, Modbury and Totnes. Shortly there will be more installations in other car parks in our main towns.

Work continues on Climate change and reducing our Carbon Foot print. There is much we can do and every little helps.

Cost of Living articles have been submitted for several weeks now by our publicity team to appear in local newspapers including how to get support with The Cost of Living Crisis. Step on grant Scheme for New home Owners. Prevention of damp and Mould in Homes. Affordable Housing Grants. Debt Advice and Support. More on these articles and how to access them are available on the Council `s website. Or call the Council offices on 861234 if you don't have access to I.T.

The Waste Collection is running well since it has been taken back in house from the beginning of October last year. There are very few missed collections being reported. The Green waste (brown bin) collections will recommence at the beginning of March .So far over 9,000 households have registered to have the fortnightly collection. Residents can still register for the fortnightly collection. It is also hoped to get everyone on the newer service by the end of the year.

The Dartmouth Health and Well being Centre is nearing completion and the official opening will take place on Friday 5th May. This is good news for Dartmouth and the surrounding parishes who use Dartmouth health care facilities.

These are some of the subjects we have been working on recently .there is plenty of information on the Council`s Website.

Take care and stay safe. Rosemary.

