

South Hams District Council report for year ending 2022 and Start 2023.

From Rosemary Rowe.

As we come to the end of 2022 we reflect on what has been a busy and at times a challenging year for all of us in our lives. Moving on from 2021 with Covid and all the restrictions which had been placed upon us we hoped that this would improve. With the vaccination programme in place it has helped a lot. It is important to keep up with the vaccination programme and to get the Flu vaccinations when they are available to us. Recently the viruses have come back with vengeance and unfortunately people are becoming very ill with them.

At S.H.D.C. we have been working to respond to the housing crisis, taking action on climate change. Supporting our residents where help is needed to help them through the cost of living price rises which is affecting all of us. Our housing dept has given assistance to help with finding accommodation for families arriving from the Ukraine across the district. We have brought the waste collection service back in house and please register to be part of the brown bin collection for green waste by 22<sup>nd</sup> January to start being collected fortnightly from the beginning of March.

Finance is at the heart of all we do. We are working on our budgets at present and as you will know councils have to set a balanced budget by law. At our Full Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 we passed a recommendation to implement 200% Council Tax on 2<sup>nd</sup> homes as soon as legislation permits which is likely to be from April 2024. We have also been looking at ways to reduce council tax for low income wage earners. We adopted the Dartmouth neighbourhood plan and the Kingsbridge, West Alvington and Chuchstow neighbourhood plan. A recommendation was made to write to central Government and organisations that can influence the removal of vaping products from open sale in Super markets and put them on the same restrictions as tobacco products. They are being displayed like sweets and are readily available to school children/students.

There is much more information on The council's Website, please use it. Take care and stay safe, best wishes for the coming year. Rosemary Rowe.

