

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT Year End 2021. From Rosemary Rowe.

As we come to the end of 2021 we reflect on what has been a busy and at times a challenging time for all of us in our lives. We did hope that at the beginning of the year that we would find ourselves in a better position with the dreaded virus but unfortunately that has not happened. Thankfully we have been able to get vaccinated against it and although persons are getting the latest version of the virus, in the main it has not been so serious .none of us wants to contract it so it is very important to get vaccinated.

At South Hams we agreed a vision for the future of the District” Better Lives for All” We have been looking at ways of dealing with Homelessness, Housing, and the effects of Climate change among others.

We work on supporting the economy of The District and distributed £ 82.3 mil. In Business grants on behalf of the government which meant a lot of extra work for our Staff and actually for us as Members too.

There are many challenges ahead including an overview and work to sort out The Waste Service which has not worked as expected with the new service which started in the spring of 2021.

There is a new grant available which will benefit hospitality and leisure businesses in the area. In December the government announce a 1 off payment of up to £6,000.00 to include Restaurants and Pubs to help those who have struggled through this difficult time of the year.

Please will all those who may be eligible apply if you have not already been contacted? The council is administrating the grant funds .All those who previously had grant funding should have been contacted but there may be some who have been missed out. The contact details are on The Council Website.

There has been misinformation published reference the collection of Christmas Trees. Unfortunately The Council will not be collecting Christmas Trees this year as there is no green waste collection service at present.

Budgets. We are all working on our Budgets at present .The Council is responsible for producing a balanced budget. It has to do this by law.

S.H.D.C. Is responsible for collecting all the Council Tax components for themselves, Devon County Council, Fire Authority, The Police and Town and Parish Councils. We must be aware that there is much pressure on all these authorities at present to keep within the constraints of ability to pay. Not an easy task.

Finally I send you best wishes for 2022.We can only hope for better times ahead.

TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE,

Rosemary.