

REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2022 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE

Thankfully we are now heading towards spring. The days are lengthening, spring flowers are starting to show life and colour, so hopefully we can see light at the end of the tunnel. There have been some changes announced on the Covid Pandemic with the ending of legal restrictions. We need to know the basic rules, look out for one another and respect other people's wishes. We must support local businesses to help them through to recovery. We can move on if we take sensible precautions. A further vaccination jab is being offered to over 75's who are vulnerable and more age groups of children.

At S.H.D.C. the setting of The Council's portion of The Council Tax was set at the Full Council On Thursday 10th February. This was set at £180.42 or an increase of £5.00 per year on a Band D property. When all the precepting authorities are added together it equates to £2,155.30 = increase of £64.75 or 3.1% across the board on last year. This is for a Band D property.

There is help available with various grant hardship funding including help with paying Council Tax. If the Council cannot provide the assistance with the service required we can point an enquiry in the right direction for assistance. Council Tax bills will be sent out from around 10th March. The Council Tax rebate of £150.00 promised by central Government to help with energy bills for Band A to D Council Tax will be paid by Direct Debit into accounts to all those who use this method of payment. Others will be given an option to use another method to receive payment.

The council hopes to make an announcement soon on the restarting of the collection of The Brown Bin garden waste which will be good.

There is going to be A Let's Talk Teenagers support network with sessions on Tuesdays from 8th / 22nd March incl. It is for Parents and carers and will cover all sorts of problems including the miss use of drugs, alcohol misuse, body image, peer pressure, mental health, social media and on line safety. The sessions will run for 90 minutes from 7p.m. and on line at devon.cc/teenagers. It is being run in conjunction with D.C.C. Safety partnership and various other groups working with youth problems.

The council is mindful of its climate change Action plans and is working with various Towns and Parishes to help reduce our carbon footprint. There is tree planting, rewilding, sowing wildflower seeds to promote habitat for wild life, insects, flora and fauna.

We have been discussing new planning regulations which could affect new builds in the future to assist in reducing the carbon foot print. To include P.V.Panels, Energy storage, Heat pumps, E.V. Charging points etc.

We have also been looking at New Housing initiatives to help people get on the housing ladder with shared ownership. The Council would give them a £3,000.00 deposit and then they can build on this and buy a share each year. To build up their share of their part which is owned. This to help them onto the housing ladder.

Take care and keep safe.

Rosemary.

