

REPORT FOR JANUARY 2022 FROM ROSEMARY ROWE.

We now have the dark and dreary days of January behind us and look forward to better days as we move forward into February and the approach of Spring.(hopefully) .One of the first points to report is the re instalment of The Brown Bin , Green waste collection. Which it is hoped will restart at the end of March into April. Hopefully F.C.C. will be able to recruit the staff in sufficient numbers to run the system efficiently.

We at South Hams have been having meetings to debate the setting of The South Hams portion of the Council Tax which is set to be increased by £5.00 per annum for a Band D property .This will equate to £ 180.42 per annum or approx £3.46 per week .It is a 2.85% increase on last year. This will be debated and fixed for the year starting on the 1st April 2022 at The Full Council Meeting on Thursday 10th February .All the details are available via The Council`s website. There are then other sums added ,County Council, Fire and Police Authority and the Local Parish and Town Council Precepts to give householders their final bill. It is worth householders reading their Council Tax demand to see where each sum is apportioned.

South Hams District Council is in the top 20 of District Councils for their Climate Action plans. We have scored 66% compared to 43% average of all U.K. District Councils. We have also been ranked as one of the top performers in the Measuring and Setting Emissions Target Category. The Council strategy covers aspects of climate change action across The District and working with Devon Climate Change and Devon County Council. Council owned Green Spaces .There is a scheme running to assist with rewilding ,planting trees and environmentally managing Council owned green spaces and other public areas. We hope to plant 2,550 young trees .This will help to offset the District`s carbon foot print and increase habitats for insects, bird and animal wild life. There are moneys available for rewilding to sow wild flower seeds to create areas which can be treated as wild flower meadowlands to help with climate change.

Everyone can play their part taking small measures to help. Such as turning off unnecessary lights, not running water taps unnecessarily (brushing ones teeth!) not leaving the tap running. Check on home insulation to save energy. To name but a few simple things which can be done?

Freeport Plans which have been in the news recently. This is basically an Economic Development Area Plan. This includes areas in Sherford (new town) Langaner. Plympton and South Yard in Plymouth. It is estimated that it will create 3,500 jobs. It will need large sums of financial investment to get the projects started. South Hams will be working with Plymouth City and Devon County Councils if The Freeport is to go ahead. A decision has to be made by the 12th April 2022.

Hospitality and Leisure grants (HLG) continue to be paid out. South Hams has out £1,024.750 in this fund to help 332 businesses in the South Hams during the last month. There is a new grant for Voluntary and Community groups worth up to £2,500.00 for any project or scheme to make a positive difference to the Health and Well being of local people.

The new Health and Well being Centre at Townstal is coming on really well and the house building at Little Cotton Farm is also progressing well. People are moving in and housing is being allocated.

Take care and continue to stay safe,Rosemary Rowe.