

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

Hopefully the dark dreary days of winter are behind us. We look forward to better days ahead with the approach of spring as we move into March.

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. Which can be a passport, driving license, bus pass, etc. with a photo I.D.? The easiest way for those without photo I.D. is to get a postal vote as this does not need I.D. Those wishing to use this method should apply via the council's website or by telephone as soon as possible as the closing date for postal vote applications is 18th April 23

We have all been working on our Budgets for the coming year 2023/24 and South Hams has increased 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 was made at Full Council on Thursday 16th February 2023 We know that the Devon County Council has also increased its Council Tax as it has a large deficit caused by adult and Social Services care. Please read your Council Tax demand when you receive it so that you understand where all the money goes.

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. Council Tax reduction schemes and help for the business communities. 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 within the first two of March. You can check on line when your first collection will be. So far over 9,000 households have registered to have the fortnightly collection. Residents can still register for the fortnightly collection. The stickers are going out to those who have registered for the service. These must be adhered to your Brown Bin in order to be emptied. 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 Tuesday 9th May. This is good news for Dartmouth and the surrounding parishes who use Dartmouth health care facilities. The car parking at the Dartmouth Health Hub and the Park and Ride were discussed at the Council`s Exec. Meeting on 2nd March and are now out for consultation. 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.

